

Health systems, universal health coverage and epidemic preparedness & response

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Overview

- Basics about health systems and universal health coverage
- Three examples of crucial links between health systems and epidemic response
- Impact of epidemics on health systems

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Rank these according to their importance for health systems performance

1st

How much money the health system has

2nd

How you organize your system (e.g. investments in primary care vs hospital-level care)

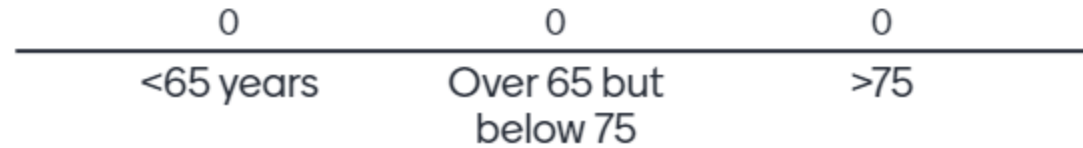
3rd

How you train and treat your health care workers

4th

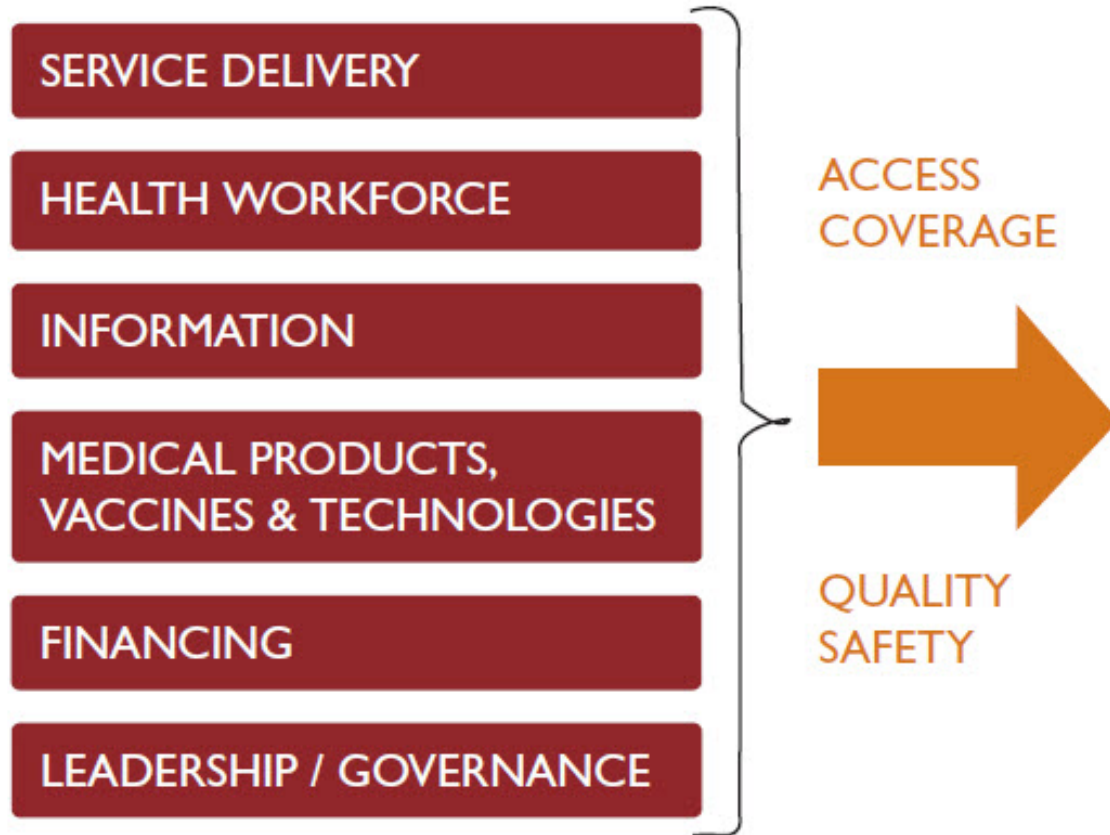
How strong leadership there is and how well the system is governed

What is the life expectancy of females in Kerala, India?



WHO health systems building blocks

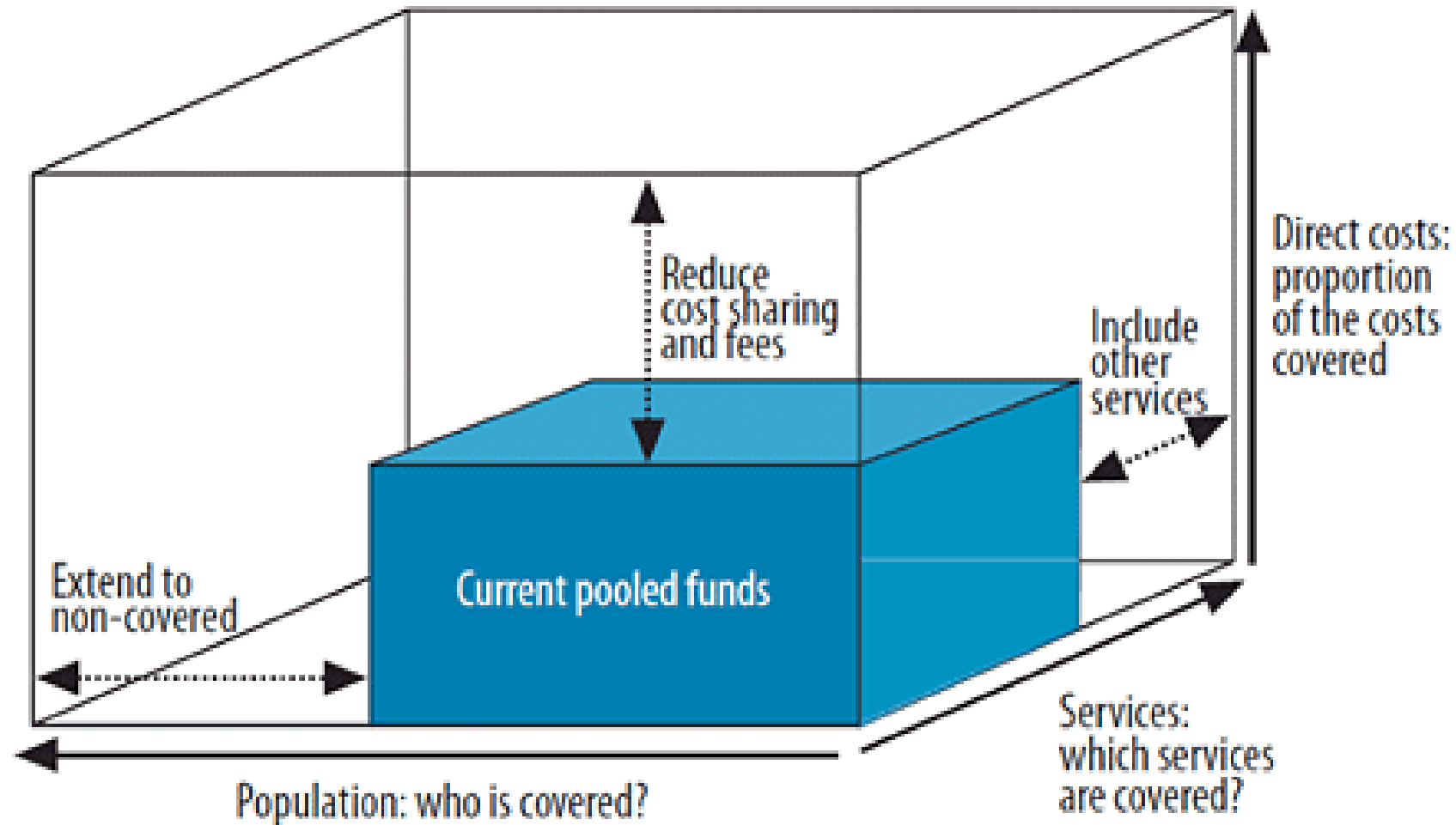
System Building Blocks



Overall Goals / Outcomes



Universal health coverage



Three dimensions to consider when moving towards universal coverage

Pursuing UHC: examples

'It's a godsend': the healthcare scheme bringing hope to India's sick

In a country where treatment can cost two years' wages, a new project could mean free medical care for 500 million people



Kenya is making moves towards Universal Health Coverage. What are we to make of them?

Kenya has recently made high-profile political commitments to achieve universal health coverage (UHC) nation-wide by 2022. This move offers our research team a chance to follow developments, engagements and debates about UHC in Kenya, as they unfold.

Cynthia Khamala Wangamati and Ruth Prince, October 2019



UHC cards waiting for collection in rural health center, Kenya

Leaders

Apr 28th 2018 edition >

Medicine

Universal health care, worldwide, is within reach

The case for it is a powerful one—including in poor countries



Universal healthcare: the affordable dream



What Thailand can teach the world about universal healthcare

The Asian nation proves that a well researched system with dedicated leadership can improve health, affordably. In 10 years, its plan reduced infant mortality, decreased worker sick days and lightened families' financial burdens



Three examples of crucial links between health systems and epidemic response

Strong health systems protect their patients from financial risks

Covid-19 testing & out-of-pocket costs in the United States

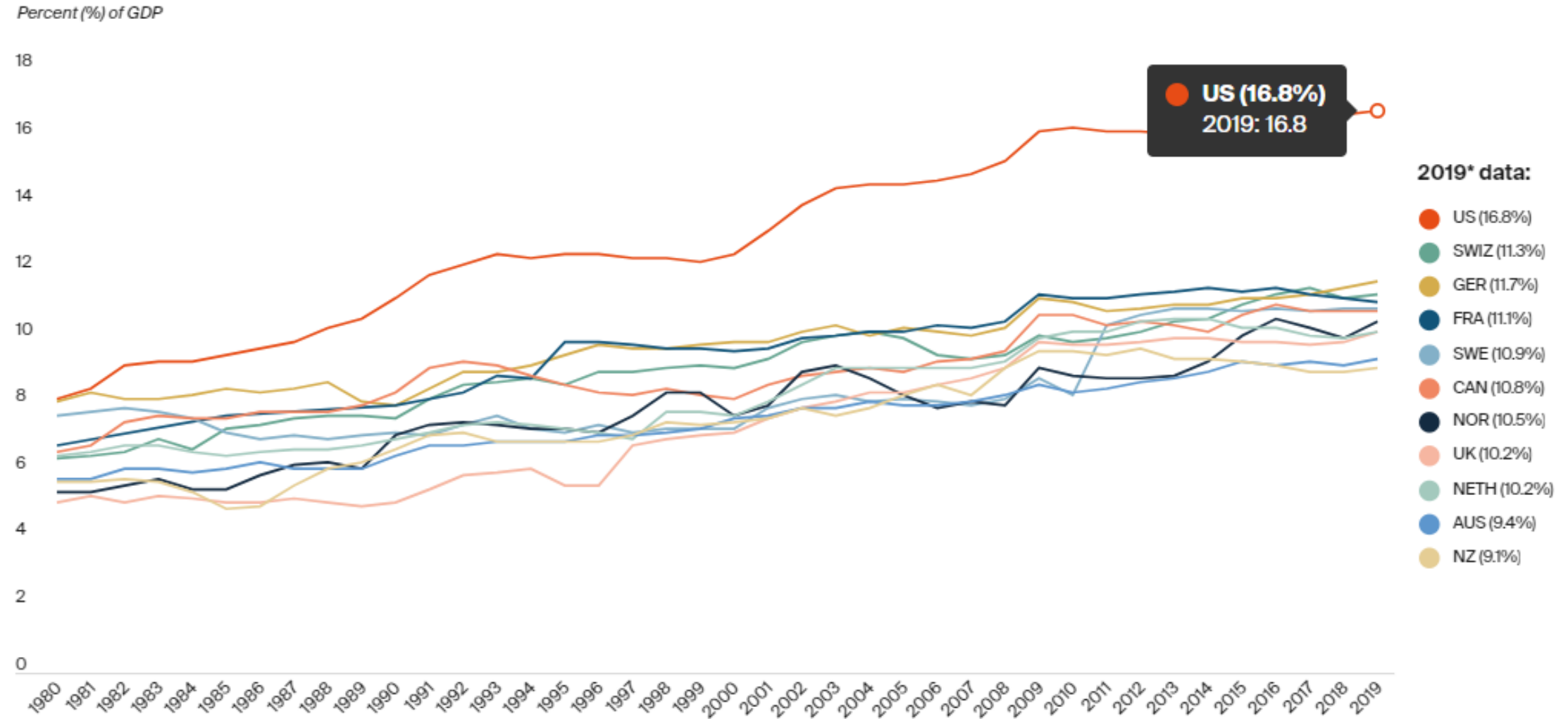
- Cost-sharing for covid-19 testing prevented people from obtaining tests
- Federal law 2 months after the first covid-19 case in the US.
- Patients still risk high out-of-pocket payments

HEALTH • COVID-19

COVID-19 Testing Is Supposed to Be Free.
Here's Why You Might Still Get Billed



Health Care Spending as a Percentage of GDP, 1980–2019



Notes: Current expenditures on health. Based on System of Health Accounts methodology, with some differences between country methodologies. GDP refers to gross domestic product.
* 2019 data are provisional or estimated for Australia, Canada, and New Zealand.

Source: Eric C. Schneider et al., *Mirror, Mirror 2021 — Reflecting Poorly: Health Care in the U.S. Compared to Other High-Income Countries* (Commonwealth Fund, Aug. 2021).
<https://doi.org/10.26099/01DV-H208>

Strong health systems have alert clinicians, microbiological capacity and effective leadership

Nipah virus response in Kerala, India

- Nipah outbreak for the first time in 2018
- Alert clinicians excluded more common viral infections and suspected virus of unknown origin

«His clinical symptoms were not typical of the usual type of encephalitis. We started observing him closely. When he started showing strange symptoms we summoned one of his attendants and he told us his brother died with similar symptoms two days ago”

Attending physician at Baby Memorial Hospital, Kozhikode, Kerala

- Clinical alertness combined with swift and effective public health leadership



Interview

The coronavirus slayer! How Kerala's rock star health minister helped save it from Covid-19

Laura Spinney

KK Shailaja has been hailed as the reason a state of 35 million people has only lost four to the virus. Here's how the former teacher did it

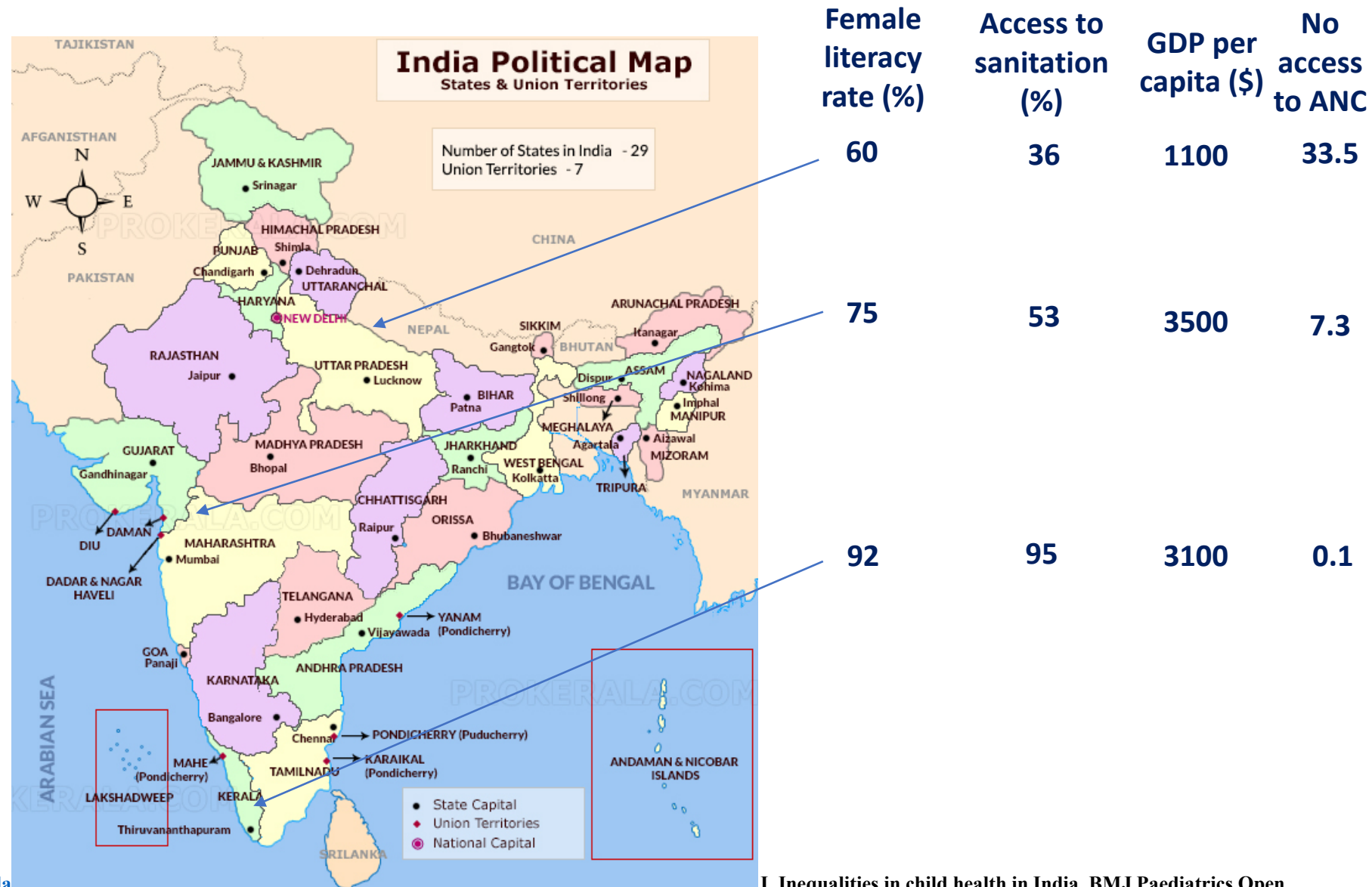


“Our clinics for respiratory disease meant we could look out for community transmission”: KK Shailaja, health minister.

On 20 January, KK Shailaja phoned one of her medically trained deputies. She had read online about a dangerous new virus spreading in China. “Will it come to us?” she asked. “Definitely, Madam,” he replied. And so the health minister of the Indian state of Kerala began her preparations.

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Health systems cannot be separated from what's happening outside the health sector



Strong health systems integrate primary care and public health

- Once patients' accessed primary care (e.g. through GP, ER), contact tracing by municipal doctors played pivotal role
- Capacity of municipal contact tracing teams, led by the municipal doctor, scaled up during the pandemic
- Heart of Norway's response



How epidemics impact health systems

- Pre-existing vulnerabilities are exposed (e.g. ICU capacity, weak primary care, social inequalities)
- Health services may have to be reorganized to prepare for surge of patients
- People change care-seeking behaviour
- Infections, morbidity and mortality among health care workers
- Health service access may be disrupted

Bring in Mentimeter here

Questions?