

APPENDIX 4: INTERVIEW GUIDE

My name is Love Namitanga, and I am part of this study as research assistance under the school of public and global health department from Business Administration in Health Systems and Management postgraduate course. The study aims to understand, and analyse stakeholders' perceptions towards the introducing of National Health Insurance Scheme in Malawi.

Please answer the questions freely, and be assured that the information provided will be kept strictly confidential and will be used for research purposes only. Your name is not required, and multiple answers are allowed where applicable. Thank you.

Gender.....experience (years).....Institution.....Position.....

PART A: STAKEHOLDERS' PERSPECTIVES AND INTERESTS TOWARDS NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME (NHIS) IN MALAWI

Now we are going to discuss NHIS

1. Tell me what you know about NHIS. (probe benefits)
2. Please can you describe your role concerning the introduction of NHIS in Malawi? (probe motives, priorities, and why)
3. Which stakeholders should be crucial when introducing NHIS, and what are their perceived roles and interest? (why)
4. How do power dynamics among various stakeholders influence involvement in shaping the design and implementation of NHIS in Malawi? (probe agreements and disagreements, especially on socioeconomic factors)
5. How can the engagement and collaboration among stakeholders be improved to ensure a more inclusive and participating decision-making process for the introduction of NHIS in Malawi? (probe strategies overcoming conflicts)

PART B: PRIORITIES CONCERNING DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

We have just talked about NHIS. Now I would like to know more about your priorities regarding NHIS.

1. What aspects would you consider essential in the design of NHIS in Malawi? (probe priorities areas, especially benefit package and coverage, stakeholders engagement, distribution of roles, community awareness, and why)
2. Which essential priorities are crucial when determining the coverage and benefits package under the scheme in Malawi? (probe on private and CHAM institutions)
3. Are there any specific examples or lessons of best practices from other countries health insurance schemes that you think should be considered in the design and implementation of the process towards the NHIS in Malawi? (why)

PART C: ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONTEXTUAL FACTORS

1. Which existing healthcare policies and regulations in Malawi may impact the introduction of NHIS?

2. How do policy and economic climate in Malawi influence the feasibility and sustainability of implementing NHIS? (probe infrastructures, procurement of resources, and policy reforms)
3. How can the policy environment be reformed or adapted to accommodate the introduction of NHIS while considering the specific needs and characters of Malawi's healthcare system? (probe acceptability by various sectors)
4. Which environmental and contextual factors can influence the introduction of NHIS in Malawi? (why)
5. Which lessons from other countries experiences can help inform policy development and implementation in Malawi? (probe stakeholders' engagement, political commitment, equity, especially vulnerable, and achievement of Universal Health Coverage)

This marks the end of the interview; thank you so much for your time, response, and willingness to participate in this study.