



# STRATEGIC PURCHASING FACTSHEET

The issues of health care financing and universal health coverage (UHC) are currently at the centre of global policy debate. A core function of health care financing is purchasing – the process by which funds are allocated to providers to obtain health services on behalf of the population. If designed and undertaken strategically, purchasing can improve health systems performance by promoting quality, efficiency, equity and responsiveness in health service provision and, in doing so, facilitate progress towards UHC.

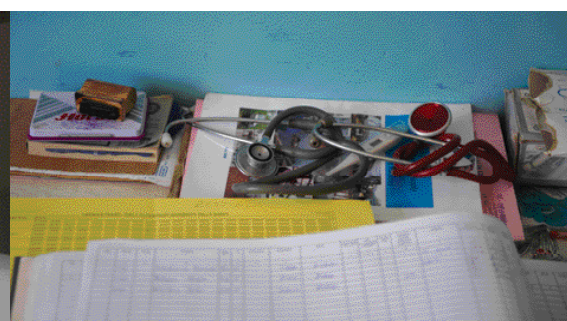
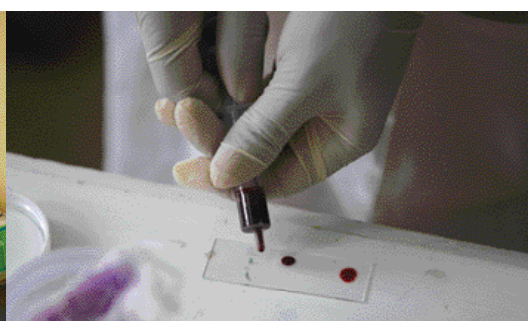
The RESYST (Resilient and Responsive Health Systems) consortium, in collaboration with the Asia Pacific Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, has recently commenced a multi-country study to critically

assess the performance of health care purchasers in a range of low and middle-income countries, and to identify factors influencing that performance. The countries involved in the study are: China, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, the Philippines and Viet Nam.

The research will examine the relationships between different groups of actors in order to understand the various components of strategic purchasing and the organisational environment within which it operates. It uses a case study approach whereby the purchasing arrangements or mechanisms in countries are the 'case' in each study, and the organisational relationships for purchasers are the unit of analysis.

This factsheet gives an overview of the different purchasing mechanisms covered in the study, which range from general tax finance public provision systems, to voluntary community-based health insurance schemes, and mandatory national social health insurance schemes. It identifies the source of finance for each scheme and the different provider payment methods that are used, including fee-for-services, budget allocation, capitation and diagnostic related groups.

The factsheet also provides an overview of the 10 countries involved in the research, demonstrating their heterogeneity in terms of socio-economic and health systems development.



## RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS

- Center for Health Policy and Management, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia
- China Center for Health Development Studies, Peking University, China
- Health Economics Unit, University of Cape Town, South Africa
- Health Policy Research Group, University of Nigeria, Nigeria
- Health Strategy and Policy Institute, Viet Nam
- Ifakara Health Institute, Tanzania
- KEMRI Wellcome Trust Research Programme, Kenya
- International Health Policy Program, Thailand
- Indian Institute of Technology Madras, India
- London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK
- Philippine Institute for Development Studies, the Philippines

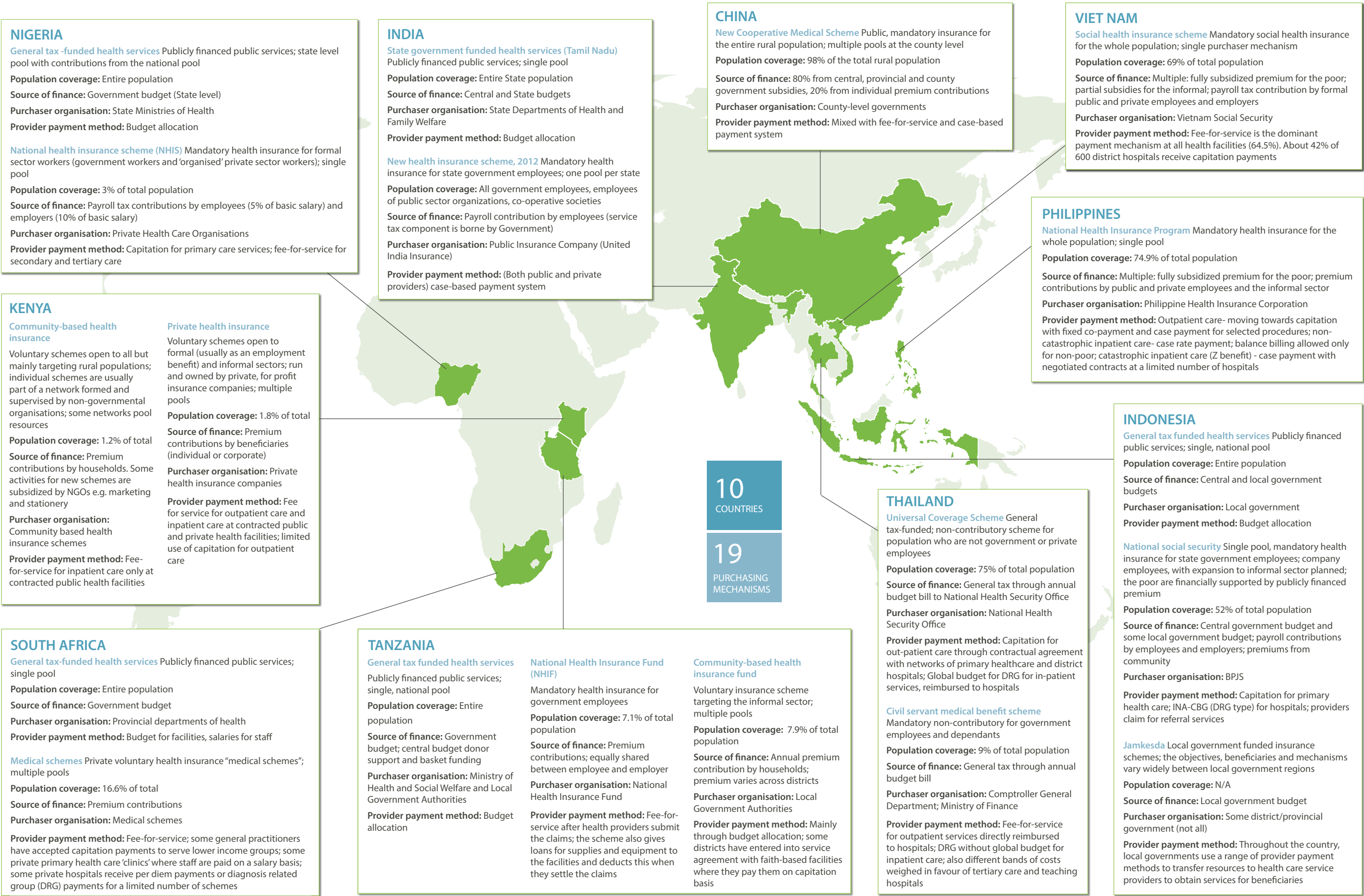
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Twitter: @RESYSTresearch

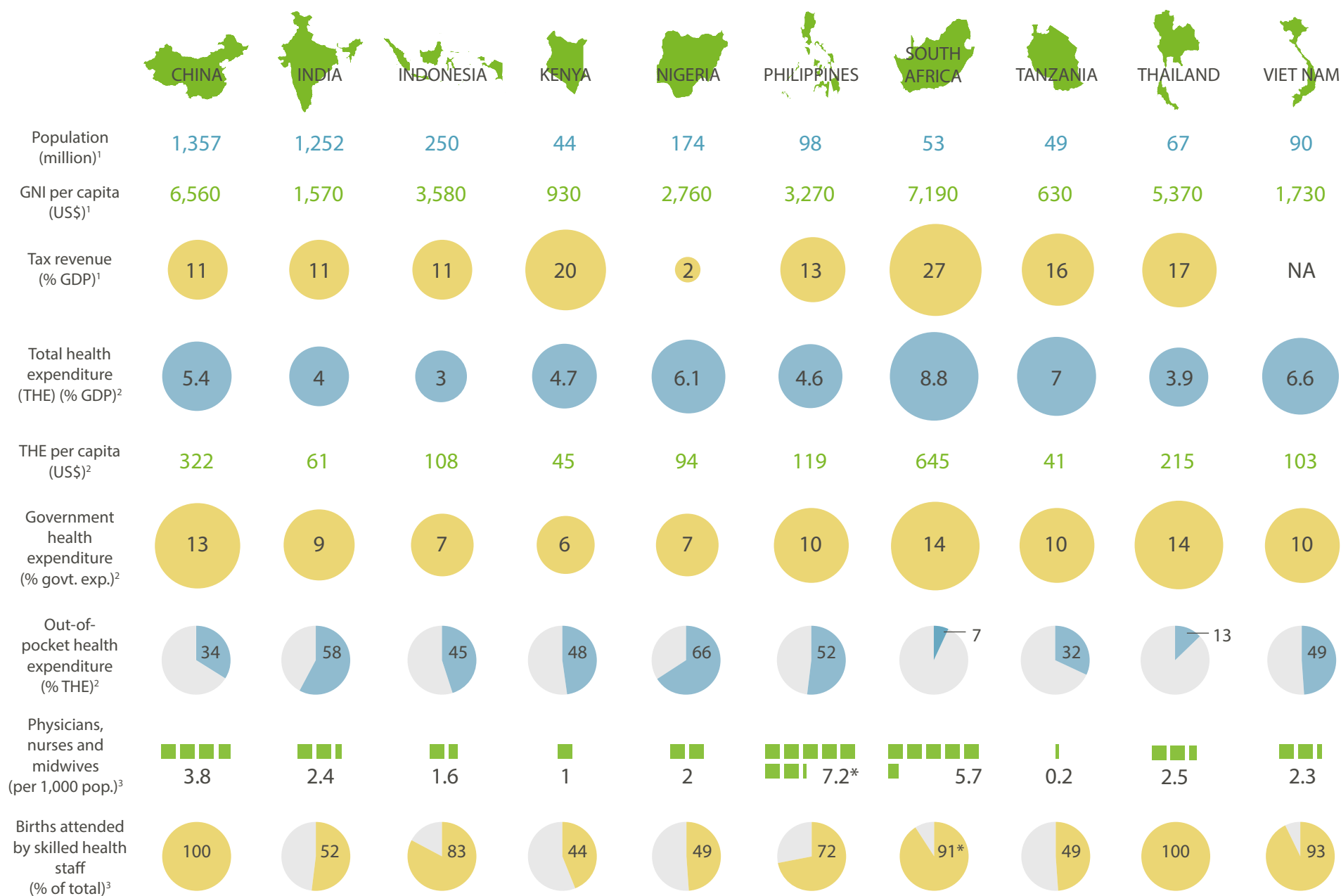
RESYST purchasing study webpage:  
<http://resyst.lshtm.ac.uk/research-projects/multi-country-purchasing-study>

Asia Pacific Observatory on Health Systems and Policies  
[http://www.wpro.who.int/asia\\_pacific\\_observatory](http://www.wpro.who.int/asia_pacific_observatory)

PROFILES OF PURCHASING MECHANISMS EXAMINED IN THE STUDY



## AT A GLANCE: KEY INDICATORS FOR THE STUDY COUNTRIES



Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators, <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator>

<sup>1</sup>2013 data, <sup>2</sup>2012 data, <sup>3</sup>Data from most recently available year ranging from 2003-2012, \*Philippines data from 2004, South Africa data from 2003