Fact Sheet
InfoSure - Health Insurance Evaluation Methodology and Information System (www.InfoSure.org)

gtz

1. What is InfoSure?

InfoSure is a user-friendly method for investigating and evaluating health insurance systems in developing and transition countries. It was developed by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) in collaboration with AOK-Consult GmbH (the consultancy arm of the AOK, the umbrella organization of German statutory health insurance funds) and the Institute for Tropical Medicine (ITG) in Antwerp.

The software-based InfoSure tool is especially helpful for producing case studies which provide information on the origin, the function, the design and the benefits of particular health insurance approaches. On the basis of a structured data collection method, it facilitates analysis and evaluation as well as comparisons with other case studies. Results can be published to the Internet.

InfoSure is based on a three-part qualitative and quantitative questionnaire which is available in three languages (English, French and Spanish). It consists of:

- a detailed free-form questionnaire,
- a coded multiple-choice questionnaire, and
- a section for collecting statistical data about an insurance scheme.

There are over 150 questions covering issues such as the context in which the health insurance scheme was established, its membership and financing, the nature and scope of its services, and questions regarding statutes, administration, cooperation with health care providers, the role of the state, and many other aspects. Additional information on health policy, the health care providers' market and general economic data complete the picture.

2. What does InfoSure provide?

InfoSure provides numerous options for describing, evaluating and comparing health insurance systems. The application...

- supports the conception of new systems or the evaluation of existing systems, including ongoing monitoring,
- enhances the power to evaluate whether the health services offered are appropriate and effective,
- enables the review of health insurance schemes in terms of both business management and health policy,
- provides decision-making aids on questions of health care financing, making it a highly useful tool for advisory work,
- supports the exchange of experience between scientists, politicians and experts in the field,
- enables both international comparisons and analysis of individual aspects of an insurance system,
- is a flexible tool: the questionnaire can be varied and adapted depending on the focus of the analysis.

All data can be collected easily and efficiently using the entry module of the software. The case studies are passed to an Internet database, where they can be accessed to generate evaluations and reports. The InfoSure database at www.infosure.org makes process-based and outcome-oriented knowledge available worldwide. It is thus a sound basis for further analyses and international comparisons.

3. Where is InfoSure used?

So far, with the help of InfoSure, GTZ experts and their partners have investigated a number of health insurance projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and given advice on administrative, strategic and operational aspects. The detailed case studies from the Philippines, India, Indonesia, Bolivia, Paraguay, Peru, El Salvador, Togo and Senegal can be viewed at www.infosure.org.

InfoSure is aimed at all those who have an interest in studying the development, efficiency and effectiveness of health insurance schemes; for instance, development cooperation projects or programmes, insurance institutions, local or regional initiatives, and individuals employed in the policy sphere. Furthermore InfoSure is of interest as a scientific tool for universities and research institutions with strengths in development or social policy. Some academic establishments in Europe and overseas are already using InfoSure for research purposes.

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