

AN URGENT CALL TO REFORM PHILHEALTH for UHC Implementation

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30 January 2025

February 2024

DOF released Circular 003-2024 implementing the use of “idle” GOCC funds to fund Unprogrammed Appropriations

April 2024

Transfer of P89.9 billion worth of funds from PhilHealth was approved in an April 3 Cabinet meeting

May 2024

May 10 - First P20B was transferred from PhilHealth to the Treasury

August 2024

August 2 - Groups file SC petition questioning Philhealth fund transfer

August 21 - 10B transferred from PhilHealth to the Treasury

October, November 2024

Last tranches worth a total of 59.9B scheduled to be transferred from PhilHealth to the Treasury

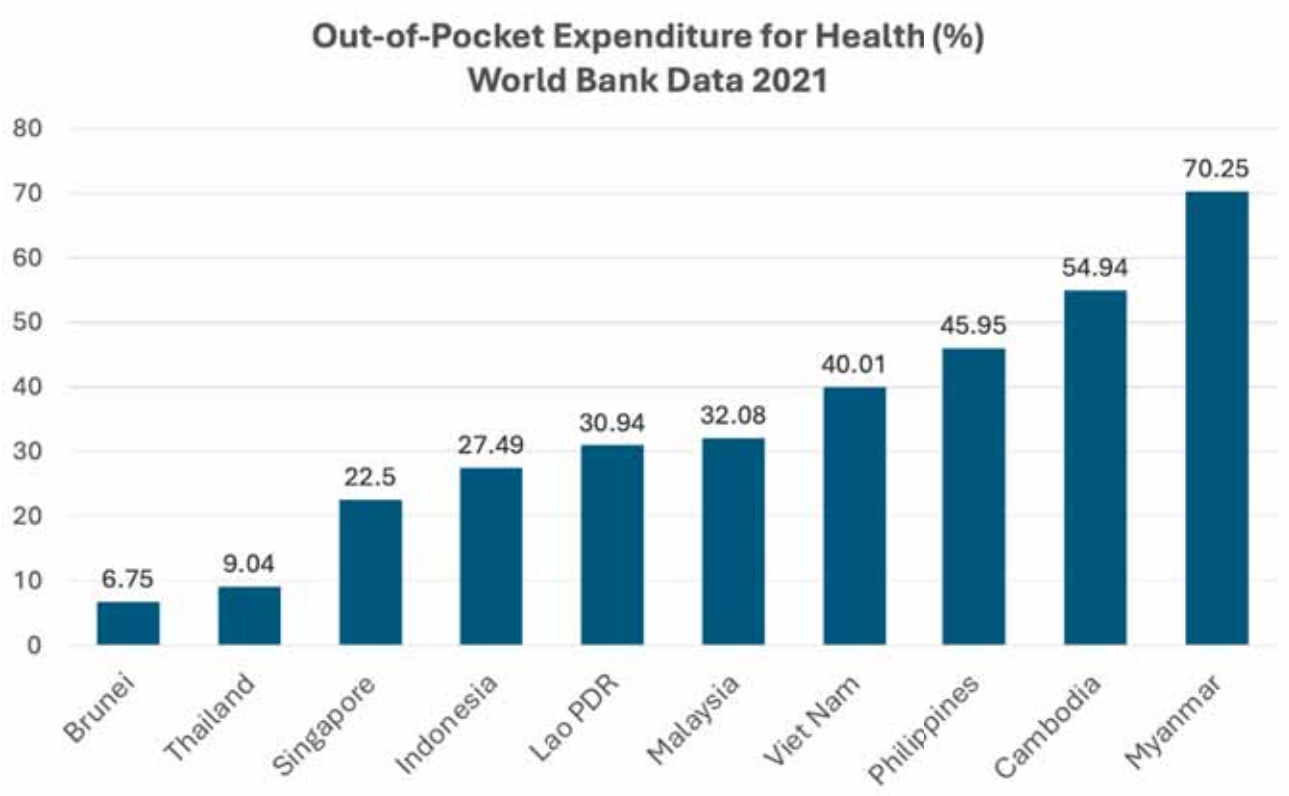
February 4, 2025

Scheduled oral arguments regarding PhilHealth fund transfer in the Supreme Court

- The global average for out-of-pocket health expenditure in 2021 was **17.05%**.
- In the same year, the Philippines was ranked third highest in the ASEAN with out-of-pocket health expenditure at **44.61%**.
- In 2022, this percentage grew to **45.95%**.

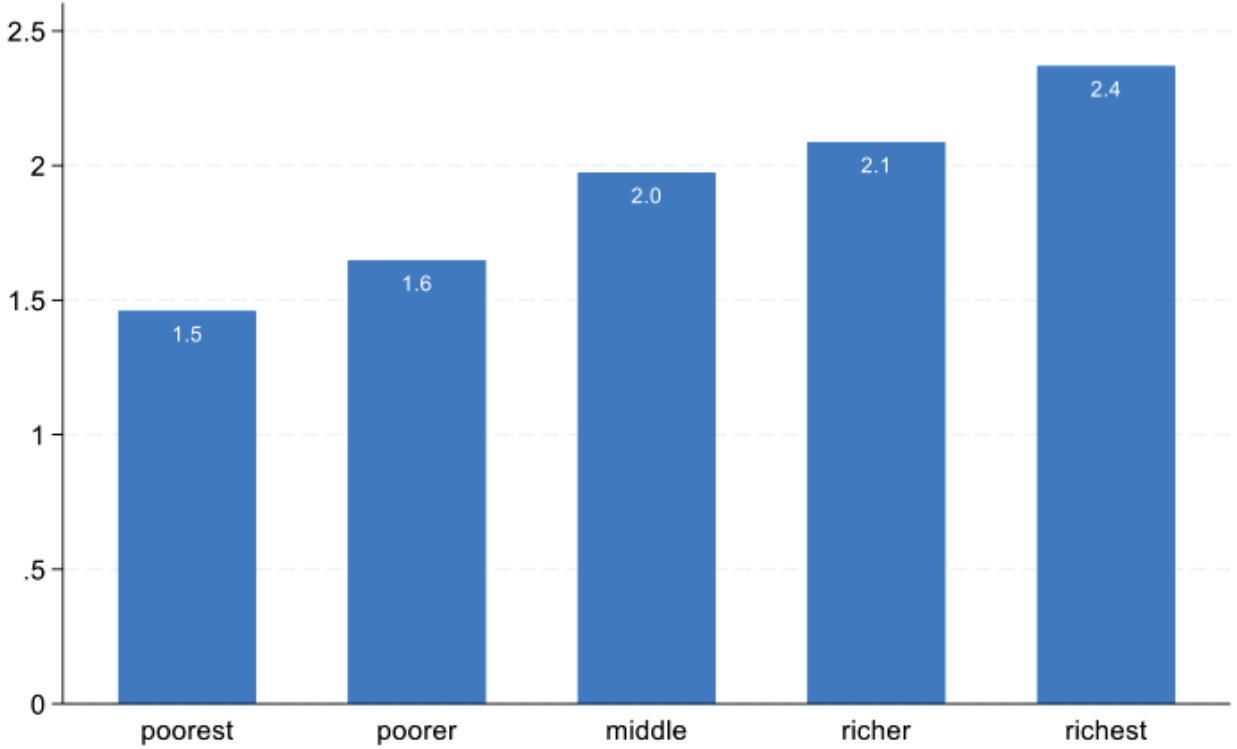


Measures of Financial Hardship in Health



Measures of Financial Hardship in Health

% Hospital Benefit Utilization by Wealth Quintile (NDHS2022)



ANO NGA BA ANG PHILHEALTH?

Ang **PhilHealth** ang national "**social health insurance program**" na layunin magbigay ng maaasahan, kalidad, at abot-kaya na serbisyong pangkalusugan para sa lahat Pilipino.

Kasama sa mga benepisyong ito ang serbisyong medikal mula sa konsultasyon, testing, pang-ospital, gamot, at iba pa.



SINO ANG MGA MIYEMBRO NG PHILHEALTH?

Ayon sa Universal Healthcare Law of 2019 or RA 11223, **lahat ng mamamayang Pilipino** ay miyembro na ng PhilHealth.

Direct contributors ang tawag sa mga miyembro ng PhilHealth na nagbabayad ng sarili nilang premium contribution (formally employed, self-employed, OFWs)

Indirect contributors ang tawag sa mga miyembro na ang premium ay binabayaran ng gobyerno (indigent, senior citizens, PWD, 4Ps beneficiaries)



PAANO BA NAPOPONDOHAN NG PHILHEALTH ANG SERBISYONG PANGKALUSUGAN?

Ang PhilHealth, bilang isang social health insurance program, ay ambagan. Ang premiums ng indirect contributors ay binabayaran ng **sin taxes at iba pang pondo ng gobyerno**, habang ang direct contributors ang nagbabayad ng kanilang premiums.

Ang pondo ng Philhealth ay pagmamay-ari ng mga miyembro nito, direct contributor man o indirect contributor.



SIN TAX COALITION

Ang pondo ng PhilHealth na pinapalipat ng DOF sa national budget ay **hindi puwedeng i-withdraw.**

Gamitin ang pondo ng PhilHealth para sa pagpapalawak ng benepisyo. **Tutulan ang paglipat ng P89.9 billion sa National Budget!**



The diversion of funds *clearly violates* Republic Acts 11223 and 11346.

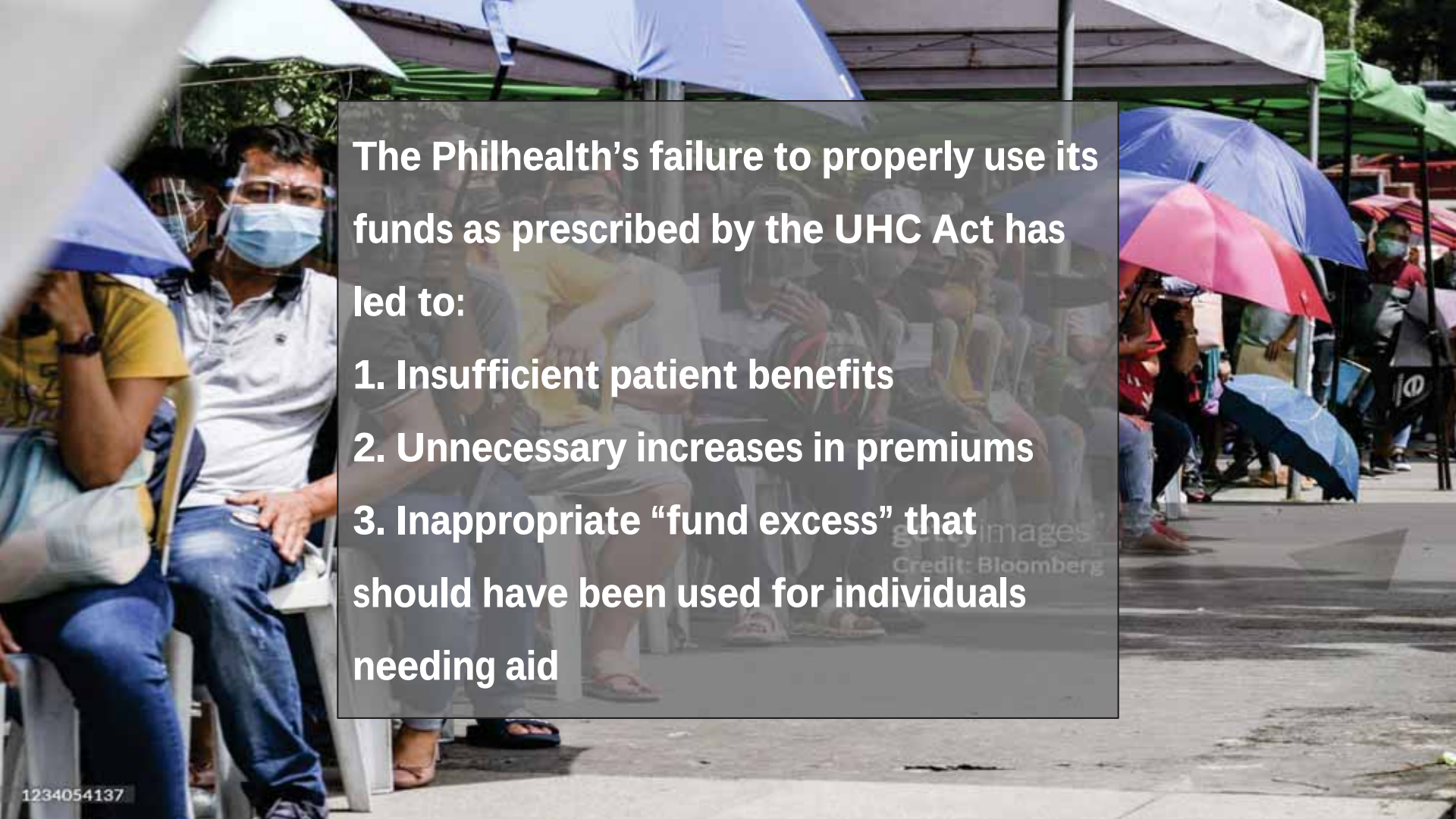
UHC Act (RA 11223)	Sin Tax Law (RA 11346)
Section 11 states: "The excess of the PhilHealth reserve fund shall be used to increase the Program's benefits and to decrease the amount of members' contribution; **no portion of the reserve fund or income thereof shall accrue to the general fund of the National Government or to any of its agencies or instrumentalities**, including government-owned or -controlled corporations."	80% of the following sources of funds are **allocated exclusively to PhilHealth for the implementation of RA 11223**: ● 50% of total revenues collected from excise tax on sugar-sweetened beverages ● 50% of total revenues collected from excise tax on tobacco products

The Philippines has among the lowest rates of domestic general government health expenditure.

The budget for Universal Healthcare is historically **underutilized** and PhilHealth benefit packages insufficient to reduce out-of-pocket expenditure, especially for the poor.

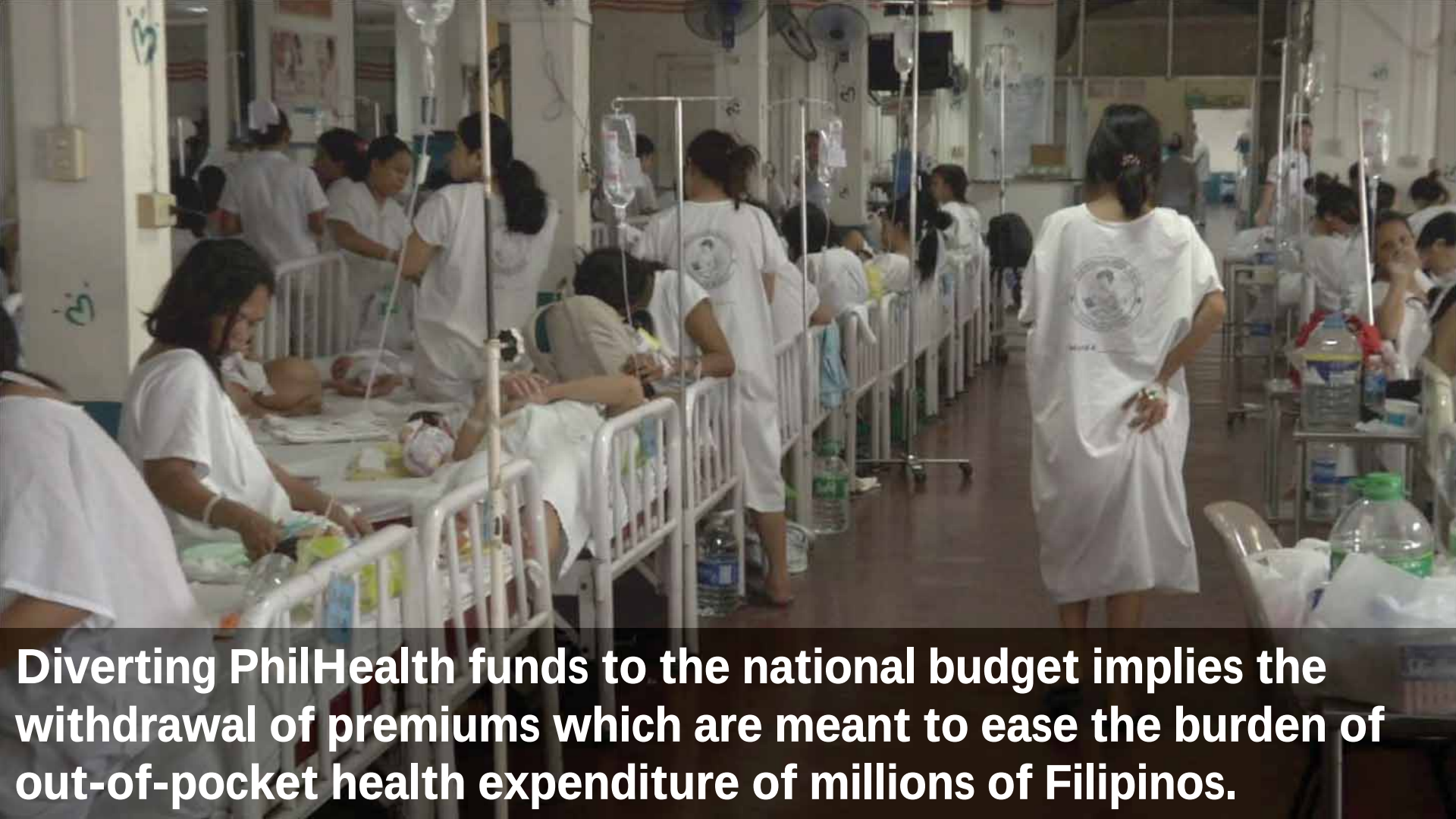






The Philhealth's failure to properly use its funds as prescribed by the UHC Act has led to:

1. Insufficient patient benefits
2. Unnecessary increases in premiums
3. Inappropriate "fund excess" that should have been used for individuals needing aid

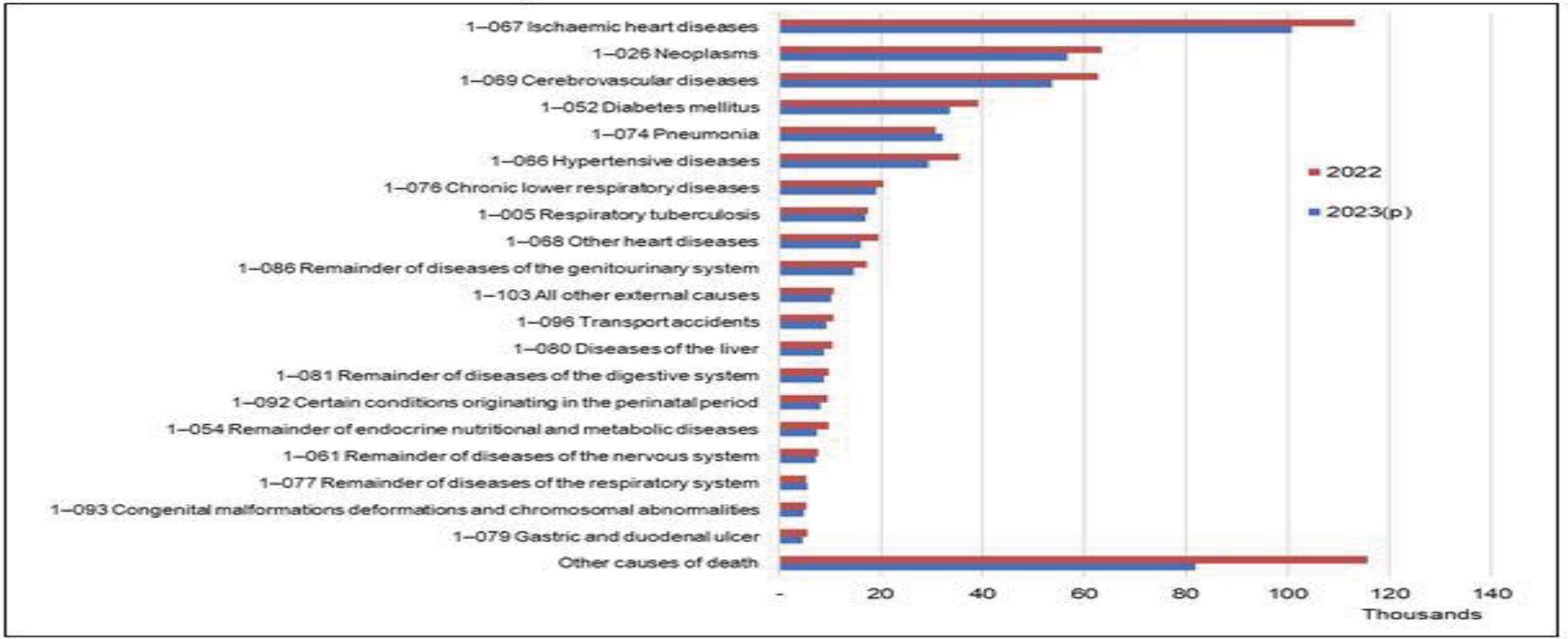


Diverting PhilHealth funds to the national budget implies the withdrawal of premiums which are meant to ease the burden of out-of-pocket health expenditure of millions of Filipinos.



The Philhealth's **underspending means it has fallen short of its mandate** to sufficiently expand benefit packages and reduce out-of-pocket health expenditure for Filipinos.

Figure 1. All Causes of Mortality (Top 20), Philippines: January to November, 2022 and 2023



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority *(Data on deaths are those registered at the Office of the City/Municipal Civil Registrars throughout the country and submitted to the Office of the Civil Registrar General using Certificate of Death-Municipal* Form No. 103)

Notes: Symptoms, signs, and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified (R00-R99) are not included in the analysis due to the unspecified nature of these causes

Causes of death are coded based on the ICD-10 Rules and Guidelines and mortality grouping is based on the Mortality Tabulation List of ICD-10

Packages to enhance immediately:

1. Coronary artery disease – approved 500K
2. Cancer or Neoplasm
3. Dialysis
4. Maternity care
5. Emergency care
6. Dental care – Approved
7. Comprehensive outpatient benefit package

1. Coronary Artery Disease benefit package



2. Cancer Benefit Package



3. Stroke benefit package

Benepisyo mo, Alamin mo!

PhilHealth Z Benefit para sa



- 28–38K to 80K now
- Better 200 K
- Start at the Emergency Room level
- Include Brain CT Scan/MRI
- Thrombolytic therapy
- Laboratory testing
- Medical rehabilitation

4. Dialysis benefit package:

Benepisyo mo, Alamin mo!

PhilHealth Z Benefit para sa



- Dialyzer
- Laboratory testing including hepatitis screening
- Hepatitis vaccine
- EPO
- Hemodiafiltration
- Consult with nutritionist
- Specify the number of dialyzer reuse so it will be the same in ALL HD units
- Specific labs included in the package
- Standardization of HD inclusion package across HD units

5. Increase Maternity Care Package

Benepisyo mo, Alamin mo!

PhilHealth Z Benefit para sa



LATEST NEWS

Baby and mother die after giving birth on Cebu City sidewalk

By Mariella Surigao - CTU Intern | August 14,2024 - 07:08 PM

A 35-year-old woman and her newborn die after giving birth on the sidewalk along General Maxilom Avenue in Cebu City on Wednesday morning, August 14. | Mariella Surigao

- Normal Spontaneous Delivery = 8,000-10,000 php
- Caesarean Section = 20,0000 php

Comprehensive outpatient benefit package

Benepisyo mo, Alamin mo!

PhilHealth Z Benefit para sa



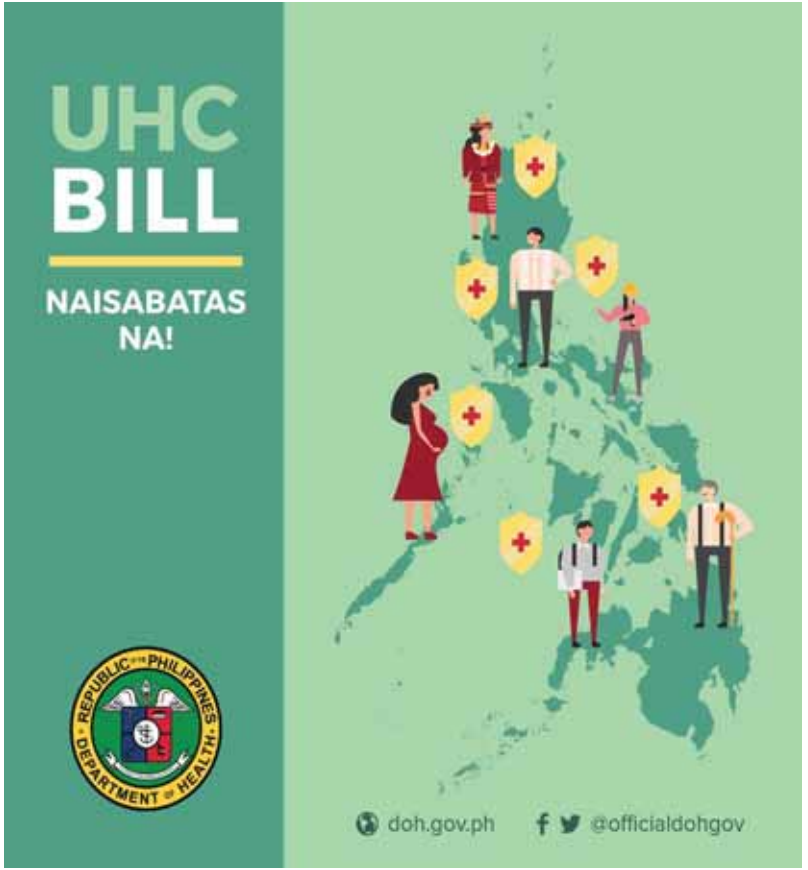
- PHILHEALTH

  OUTPATIENT CARD to prevent catastrophic medical illnesses

PhilHealth Konsulta

Konsultasyong Sulit at Tama

The Universal Healthcare Law (signed in Feb 2019) cannot and will not be fully realized without adequate funding, and the ones hurting the most are the vulnerable members of Philippine society.



Lasco et al

Alternative Sources for Health Expenditure

- PhilHealth / GL
- Pangungutang
- Pagmamakaawa
- Pagtitiis







Berkeley Public Health

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U.S. withdrawal from WHO could bring tragedy at home and abroad

Professor Stefano Bertozzi on the risks of leaving the international health organization

CBS NEWS

U.S. Trump Orders World Politics HealthWatch Money\

POLITICS

CDC staff ordered to cut off communication with WHO

By **Alexander Tin**
January 27, 2025 / 5:36 PM EST / CBS News



PHILHEALTH

[In This Economy] Zero subsidies for PhilHealth in 2025: Are lawmakers out of their minds?

DEC 13, 2024 7:00 PM PHT

JC PUNONGBAYAN

INQUIRER OPINION

EDITORIAL

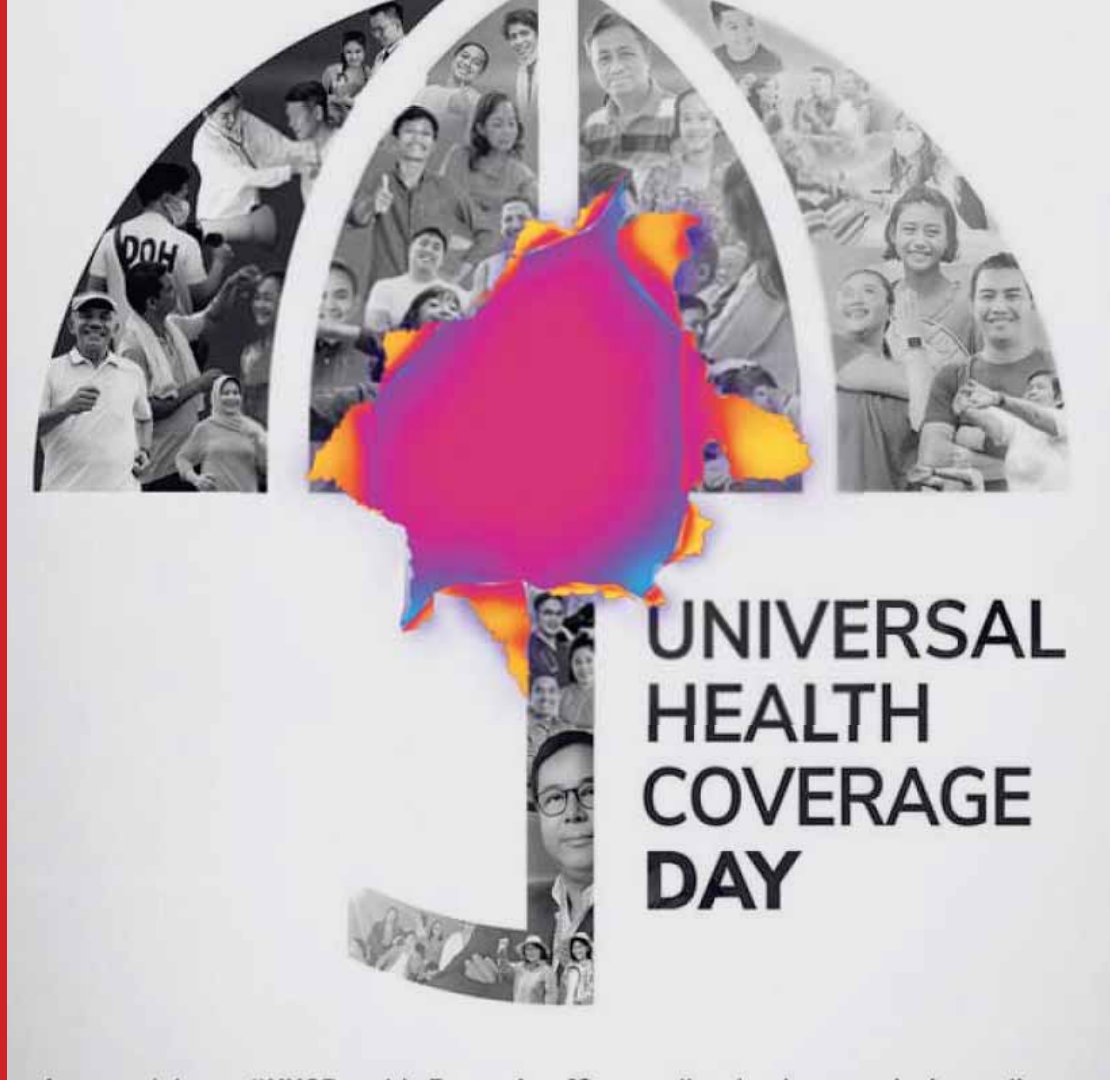
Bigger problems in 2025 budget

It is never too late, for the government —the executive and the legislative branches in particular—to ensure complete transparency in the entire budget process ... The Filipino people deserve nothing less.

RA 11223

1. VIOLATION OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ACT

All Filipinos should have equitable access to quality and affordable healthcare

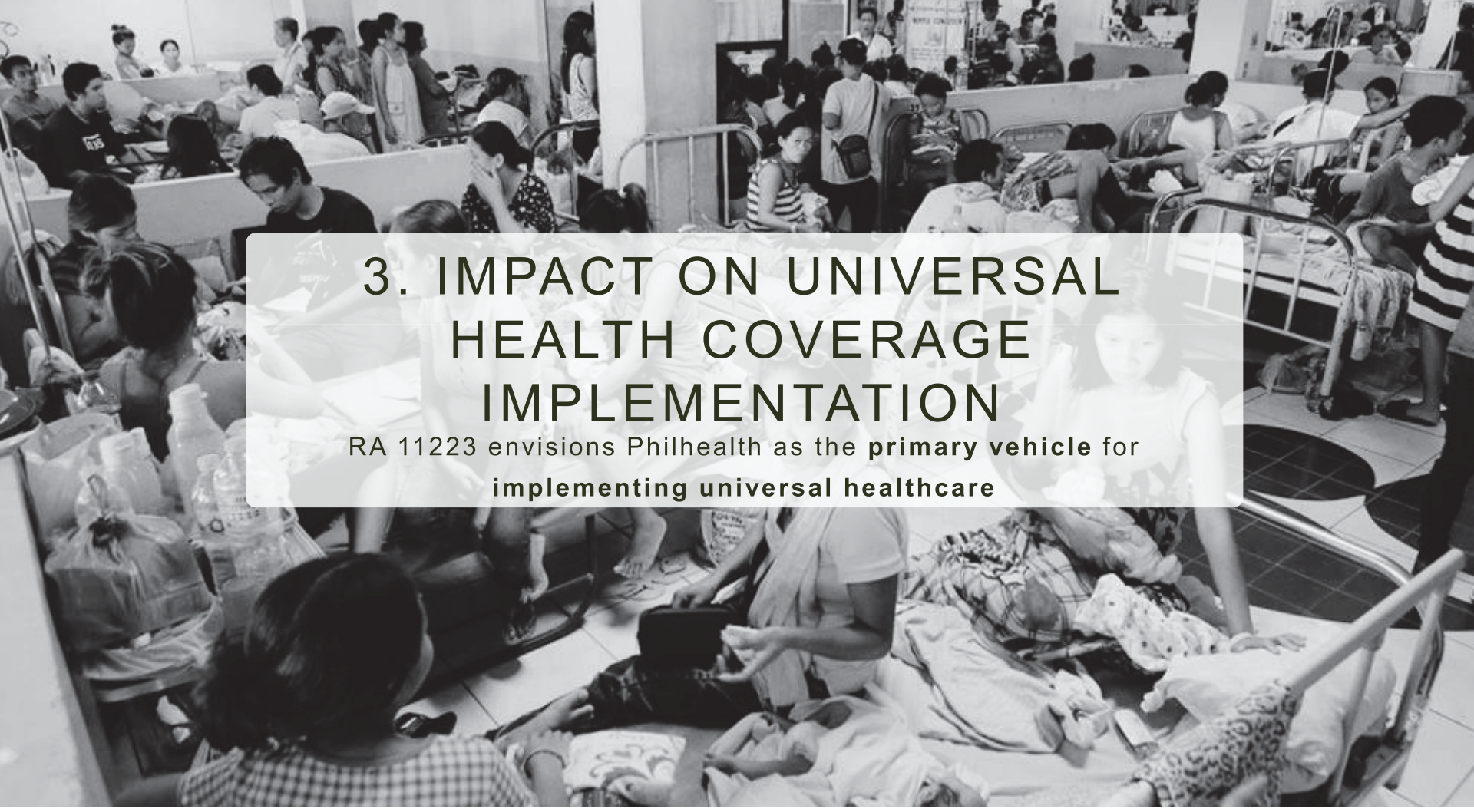




2. CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY TO PRIORITIZE HEALTH

ARTICLE II, SECTION 15

The Constituition obligates the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people



3. IMPACT ON UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE IMPLEMENTATION

RA 11223 envisions Philhealth as the **primary vehicle** for **implementing universal healthcare**

Kawawang Pilipino



Titirahin
ang supply

Sinara
ang gripo
(BICAM/ 2025
GAA Zero
subsidy)

Binawi 90B
(Congress/DOF)

Hindi
Ginamit
Para sa benepisyo
(PHIC)

Panggagahasa ng Sin Tax
Na magpopondo ng UHC

"The basis of effective government is public confidence, and that confidence is endangered when ethical standards falter or appear to falter."



- John F. Kennedy