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Essential Health Packages and the Law of Health Insurance 2014

what learnt from 2014 policy advocacy process?

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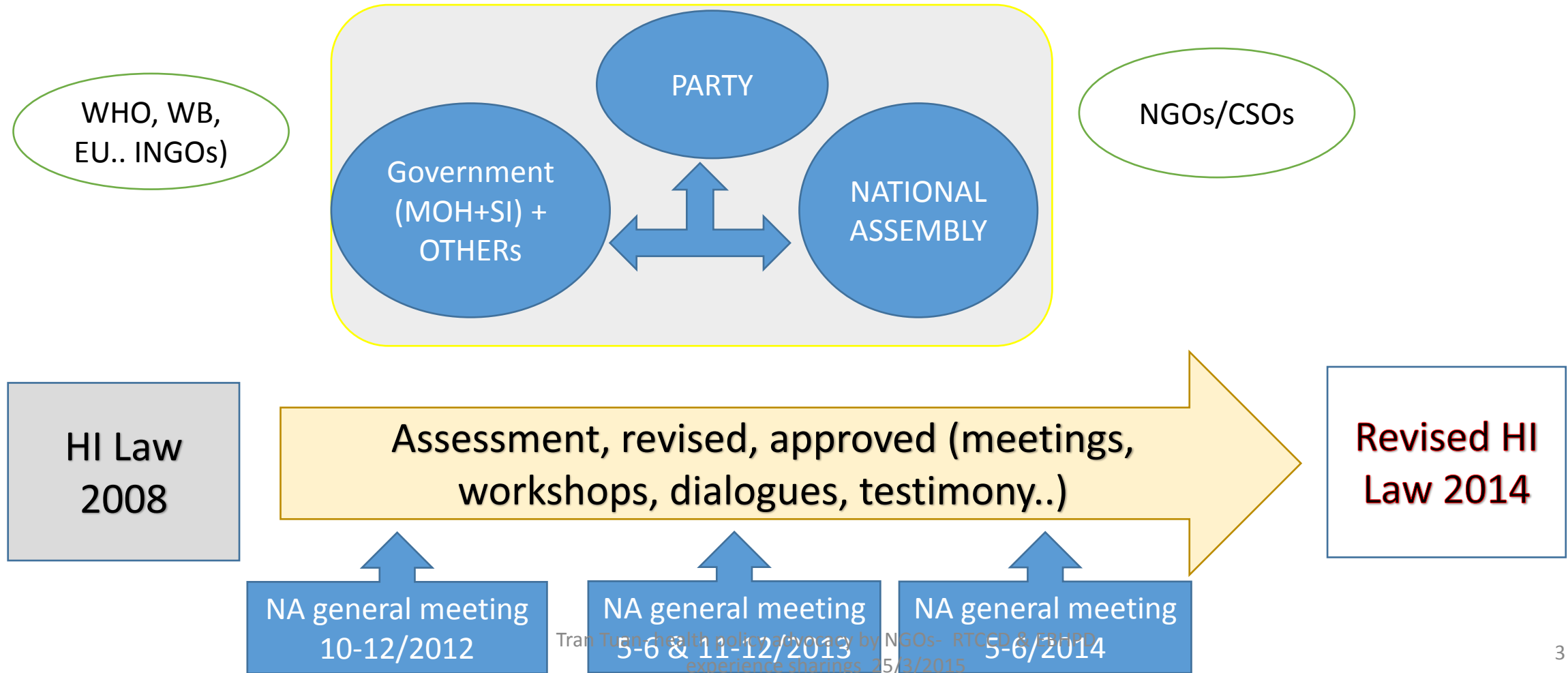
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Issues presented

- Health insurance law 2008 and the revised Law 2014: Revising process
- EBHPD and RTCCD: How to advocacy for change
- Revised HIL 2014: essential health packages into practice
- Lesson learnt

From HIL 2008 to RHIL 2014: Revising process

Revised version made by Ministry of Health + Social Insurance



RTCCD & EBHPD: What changed expected & how to advocate for change in health insurance law?

- **Before 2013: RESEARCH +RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS ON PROBLEMS IN HEALTH CARE WITH INSURANCE**
 - RTCCD Show interests to public media (articles; feature interviews...): “ ...40% of insurers used pocket money health care services instead of using health insurance health care services... call for health insurance/health system reform... question about independent quality assessment ..
 - Advocacy for Law of medical practice: Working with VUSTA + National Assembly + Communist Party
- > **HEALTH INSURANCE LAW 2008 MUST BE REVISED! HEALTH SYSTEM MUST BE RESTRUCTURED!**
- **2013: CLOSELY WORKING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**
 - join the NA health insurance field inspection Team -4/2013 (Nam Dinh, Nghe An)
 - Writing assessment report sent to NA Committee for Social Issues
 - NA workshop on health insurance revised law: 5/9/2013.
 - VUSTA workshop on revising health insurance law 2008: 4/10/2013
 - NA testimony meeting for revising health insurance law 2008: 7/11/2013
- *RTCCD/VUSTA proposed a list of 17 issues to be revised, added, deleted...*
- **Before NA approval meeting 6/2014: ADVOCATE MOH, SI, NA TASKFORCE GROUPs + COMMUNICATION**
 - Networking: EBHPD established (1/2014)
 - Series meetings with MOH & HI technical group for revising the 2008 HI (At MOH, National Assembly meetings at country regions (North 2/4/2014, Mekong River Delta) 5/4; Cental Highland 12/4/20144)
 - Campaign of communications for change (public media: feature interviews, essays, articles...) (11/2013-6/2014)

Main outcomes

- Revised health insurance law 2014: NA approved 13/6/2014 include 3 out of 17 RTCCD proposed issues 2013
 - Statement of Essential Health Packages (broadly covering health care, including medical and preventative care)
 - Essential Health Packages covered by health insurance
 - National council for health insurance (later deleted in formal version released)
- After the law approved: working with MOH to prepare legislative documents for implementing essential health packages
 - RTCCD & EBHPD become members of MOH taskforce group for program of building essential health packages and putting into the health care and health insurance systems by 2018

Key lessons for CSOs involved in health policy advocacy in Vietnam

1. **Policy advocacy:** A dual process → long term! Keep patient! Involved right from beginning (before, during, after laws passed by NA): not only changing Laws, but also legislative documents for implementing the law! → ***Keeping independent voice for community benefits!***
2. **Attached to the National Assembly Committee for Social Affairs**, working with both Government agencies and Communist Party.
3. **Actively work together with mass media right from beginning and throughout the process of policy advocacy**
4. A must condition for CSOs do policy advocacy successfully: **Have to own technical/scientific human resources nationally recognized** through written documents including essays, opinion pieces and feature interviews.

Lessons learnt ...

5. Policy advocacy process = working group/networking + research based evidence

- Member capacity, support each other: *“Năng lực đồng đều, điểm mạnh riêng biệt”*
- Share views → one common view,
- Share ideas → common proposed ideas *“ Thống nhất định hướng, thống nhất ý kiến phản biện”*
- Proposed comments approved by group/network *“Ý kiến vận động là ý kiến của nhóm”*
- Building social capital: partner relationships for common benefit *“tạo dựng quan hệ = tạo dựng cho nhóm”*
- Fight for community benefits : *“Lợi ích nhóm theo đuổi = Lợi ích cộng đồng”*
- Group/network management: result-based management and accountability (RMAFF)
“Quản lý nhóm = hướng kết quả , sản phẩm cuối cùng”

Lessons learnt..

6. Policy advocacy: systematic approach, focusing on key, essential issues (Vận động chính sách = chú trọng tổng thể, xác định điểm cơ bản phải đạt):

- Critical review & system analysis (Dựa trên phân tích hệ thống, toàn diện)
- Not being stuck to specific word expression(Không sa vào tiểu tiết)
- Keep common objectives through out various context discussions, carried out by different group members (Nhất quán trong phân tích ở các hoàn cảnh khác nhau, thực hiện bởi các thành viên khác nhau)

Lessons learnt...

7. Policy advocacy = policy analysis capacity + writing skills for public media using research based evidence + communication skills (facing with public media) (Vận động chính sách = Năng lực phân tích chính sách + năng lực viết bài, trả lời phỏng vấn truyền thông + năng lực sử dụng bằng chứng khoa học sẵn có)
- Keep key messages, using various different presentations to specific audiences (Cách trình bày nên khác nhau theo từng hoàn cảnh, nội dung được thay đổi phù hợp với độc giả cụ thể → *thông điệp đưa ra không thay đổi, mục tiêu phải đạt không thay đổi*)
 - Actively communication with public media (Chủ động viết bài kịp thời, chủ động hợp tác với truyền thông, chủ động sửa bài trước khi đăng truyền thông công chúng)

For sustainability

- Human resources: have to build team for long term purposes → EBHPD → creating CSO environment for policy advocacy: policy advocacy information center for CSOs: NGO-IC

(Nguồn chuyên gia: phải chuẩn bị và đầu tư dài hạn → *Tạo lập ngân hàng dữ liệu chuyên gia và trung tâm thông tin NGO-IC vận hành theo cơ chế “chuyển nhượng cầu thủ”!*)

- Building EBHPD: local + international networking

Thank you!