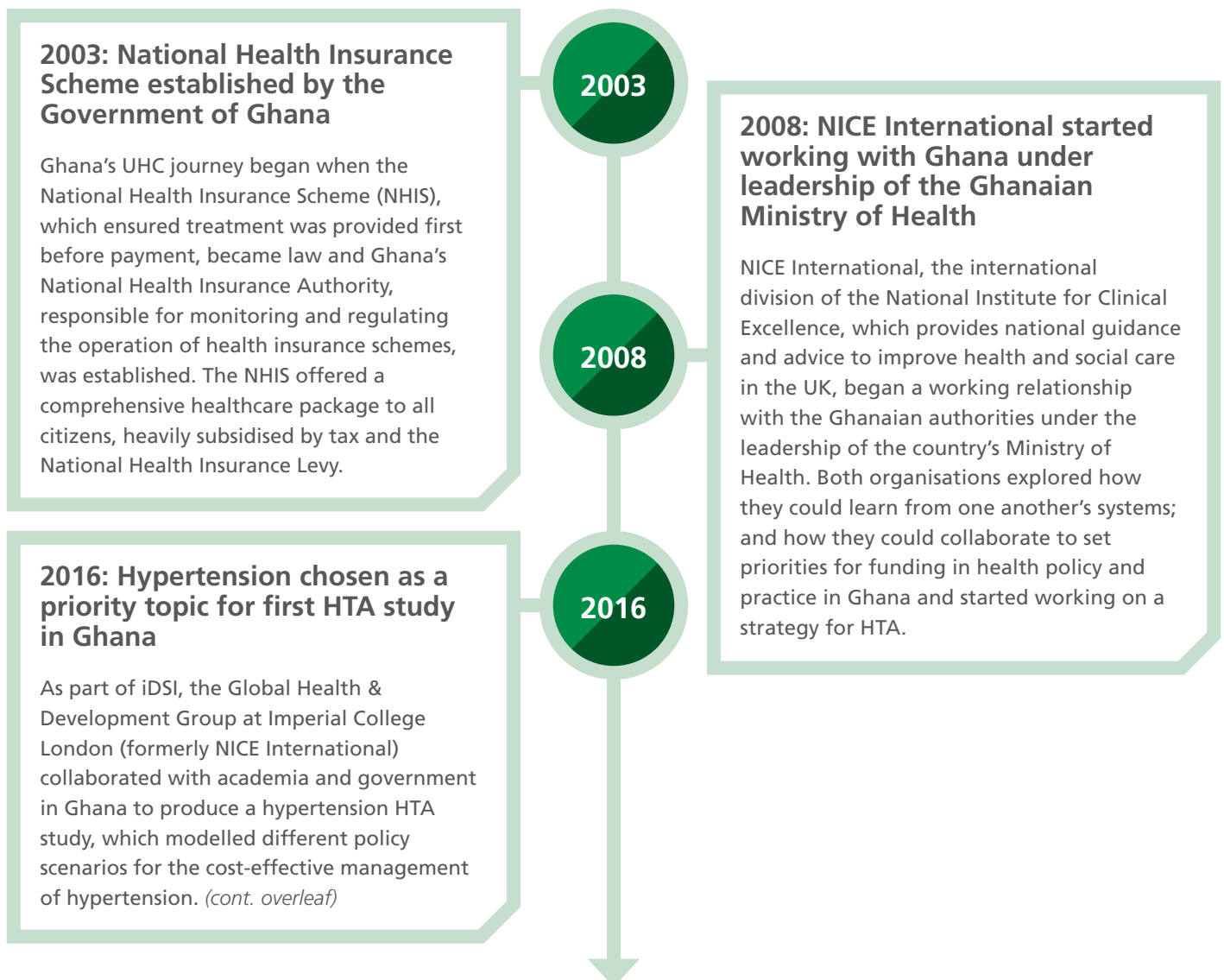




Progress towards Universal Health Coverage in Ghana

GHANA

Financing, political support and a clear strategic vision are key drivers of the realisation of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). As Ghana moves away from development assistance, iDSI traced Ghana's path towards UHC and its respective decisions on Health Technology Assessment (HTA), from being one of the first Sub-Saharan African countries to introduce a national health insurance scheme, to the present day as Ghana commits to achieving UHC by 2030.





(cont. from page 1) Hypertension is a risk factor for NCDs and treating NCD events is costly, so it is in the interest of any country to avoid and treat them in cost-effective ways. Targeting priority decision problems and reinforcing the link between HTA capacity-building efforts was high on the agenda for iDSI's collaboration with Ghanaian partners. The study resulted in a strategic plan for HTA institutionalisation and a National Medicines Policy (NMP) in Ghana.

2017

2017: HTA model presented at the National Health Summit

The pilot study on hypertension along with recommendations for institutionalising HTA were presented by representatives of iDSI at the Ghana National Health Summit. Results included evidence-informed formulated policy scenarios as a means for achieving cost-effective management of hypertension for Ghanaian policy makers.

2018: HTA cited in the Aide Memoire from the National Health Summit, a revised NMP and a pledge to achieve UHC by 2030

The Ghanaian government signed an Aide Memoire cementing the role of HTA in optimising drug procurement and supply chains for UHC, reflecting discussions and conclusions from the 2018 National Health Summit and containing commitments of health partners towards providing quality healthcare for Ghanaians.

A revised NMP with a five-year implementation plan was launched. The NMP promoted the responsible use of medicines by healthcare providers and consumers and expressed the government's commitment towards UHC.

The Director-General of the Ghana Health Service stated Ghana's commitment to achieving UHC by 2030 during a speech at the International AIDS Society conference in Amsterdam.

2018

Setting Priorities Fairly: Sustainable Policies for Effective Resource Allocation event

In September 2018 iDSI and Health Technology Assessment international (HTAi) were delighted to host a first-of-its-kind event focused on sustainable resource allocation policies for low and middle income countries (LMICs) in Accra.

The two-day event set out to address the difficulties that LMICs face with UHC attainment; and put the spotlight specifically on how HTA can provide solutions. Almost 100 policy representatives from across Africa and Europe attended workshops that provided an overview of HTA, covering core technical components and how HTA could be integrated within a broader decision-making process. Speakers presented on their experiences of HTA in SSA nations in plenary and parallel sessions covering a wide array of issues pertinent to HTA.

The event was hosted by the Ministry of Health Ghana and endorsed by the Honorable Minister for Health, Mr Kwaku Agyemang-Manu.

By leveraging the collective inputs and suggestions from a great mix of delegates with a vast collection of knowledge iDSI and HTAi anticipate the ideas and recommendations that stem from the event will further incite development and innovation within the region.

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