



"FAIR" ON THE AIR:

EQUINET working with media on Fair Financing of health services in east and southern Africa



EQUINET worked with Workers World Media for their production of an eight minute feature in five languages on health financing in South Africa; a fifteen minute feature in English on health financing and the Abuja target in East and Southern Africa; and a half hour long live radio show involving interviews with various stakeholders on fair financing in South Africa.

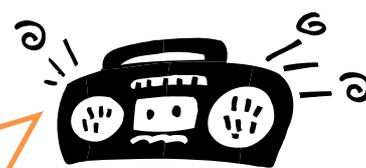


SAFM's "Workers on Wednesday" show is the largest English language current affairs radio programme in South Africa. In September 2009 it aired a feature entitled, "Healthcare financing: the state of healthcare and the working class." The script was developed together with Health Economics Unit UCT, who co-ordinate the fair financing work in EQUINET. Invited guests discussed why National Health Insurance was being proposed in South Africa, what additional health funding was needed and what impact the insurance may have on workers. Available at: <http://www.equinet africa.org/bibl/docs/audiodump.mp3>.

An October 2009 episode of the "Africa Labour Radio Project" (ALRP) show on SABC Channel South Africa examined the lack of public health care financing in Africa in the context of health worker shortages and poor working conditions, TB and AIDS, and poor access to care for patients. The show also discussed the Abuja target of allocating 15% of total public spending to the health sector, and discussed appropriate financing mechanisms. Available at: <http://www.equinet africa.org/bibl/docs/alrpfinoct2009.mp3>.

A "Labour Voices of the Airwaves" (LVA) show broadcast to 37 community radio stations across South Africa in early 2010 looked at issues around the proposed National Health Insurance scheme.

The SAFM show reached an estimated audience of 796,000 across South Africa. The ALRP show reached 21,000 across Africa and was re-broadcast on WBAI community radio in New York State. The shows were timely and contributed African voices to the debate on health insurance and financing. During the SAFM show, a number of people phoned into the show to comment or ask questions. After the broadcast, the issue of National Health Insurance in South Africa garnered increased attention. Meanwhile, the LVA broadcast helped ensure that the topic stayed on the agenda, and "that concerns of the public around national health insurance were being raised." (Source: *EQUINET Final Report, July 2010*).



EQUINET is a network bringing together academic, government, non-state research centres, civil society and parliament institutions from east and southern Africa. It has built a forum for sharing knowledge and forging strategic alliances to influence policy and practice towards health equity and social justice. See www.equinet africa.org. This work was funded by Research Matters, a collaborative initiative between the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). See www.research-matters.net.