Universal Health Coverage, Sustainable Development and the Post-2015 Agenda

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Universal Health Coverage (UHC): A sustainable development goal for health

UHC: What and Why?

The UHC Global and National Movement
Health Enables Sustainable Development

Health is a Right
- The right of everyone to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health is recognized in numerous global, regional and national treaties and constitutions

Health is Socially Determined
- 75% of health outcomes depend on living and working conditions

Health Contributes to Growth and Development
- Healthy population means higher labor productivity
- Higher returns to households from labor market participation

Increased Access to Health Services
Improved Level and Distribution of Health Outcomes
Better Health for Citizens
Improved Country Competitiveness
Inclusive and Sustainable Growth
The Health Sector Contribution

Post 2015 Development Agenda: Wellbeing for All
The contributions of the health sector and other sectors

Sustainable Wellbeing for All
Poverty eradication, health, education, nutrition, environment, security, etc.

Healthy Lives at All Stages
Child survival, maternal survival, MDG6, adolescent health, NCD burden reduction

Universal Health Coverage
Health promotion, prevention, treatment, financial risk protection

Health Sector Contribution

Other Sector Contributions
Disease and health-specific goals cannot be met without a functioning health system that enables all people to access health services they need without incurring financial hardship.

Universal Health Coverage

- UHC is a catalyst for change, more efficient and equitable government spending
- Resulting in a more efficient, accountable health system

- Greater access to health services
- Financial protection
- A sustainable, healthier and more productive society
The challenge is to frame an overarching health goal and targets in a way which:

- Acknowledges health sector specific contribution to health;
- Links to other sectors and development goals;
- Drives change relevant for all countries;
- Appeals to politicians and the public; and
- Can be measured and include indicators for level and distribution (equity).
**Universal Health Coverage: What?**

**Definition:**

All people can access the health services they need without incurring financial hardship.

**Indicators:**

1. Access
2. Financial protection
Universal Health Coverage: Why?

1. UHC reflects health sector’s inherent responsibility to provide universal and equitable access to health services for ensuring improved health outcomes.

2. UHC links to other sectors, and enables healthy, sustainable development.

3. UHC is a recommitment to health as a human right.

Universal Health Coverage is an integrated, efficient approach to improve health outcomes. It’s aspirational, but there is growing global and national commitment to UHC.
“UHC is the single most powerful concept that public health has to offer... the umbrella concept that demands solutions to the biggest problems facing health systems... the anchor for WHO.”

— Dr. Margaret Chan, WHO, May 2012

UN UHC Resolution: 2012

2015

UHC as Post-2015 Umbrella Health Goal

The Lancet UHC Series

2012

Rio+20, The Future We Want strongly features UHC

World Health Assembly Resolution

2011

World Health Report “Health Systems Financing – The Path to UHC”

2010

Growing Global Momentum and Focus on Universal Health Coverage
The UN General Assembly Resolution:

“Recommends that consideration be given to including universal health coverage in the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda in the context of global health challenges.”

Broad spectrum of countries moving towards Universal Health Coverage:

- Thailand
- South Africa
- United States
- Ghana
- China
- Turkey
- Indonesia
- Mexico
- India
- Brazil
- Viet Nam
- Egypt
UHC is the only proposal that embraces the whole health system and puts rights and equity at the center of its vision. Specifically UHC:

- Emphasizes universal health access to comprehensive, high-quality prevention, treatment and care;
- Includes clear, specific, and concrete health goals – accelerating progress on the unfinished MDG agenda and incorporating all that was missing (such as NCDs); and
- Considers targets and indicators specific to each part of the life course – for children, adolescents, adults and the elderly.

Source: Richard Horton, *The Lancet*
• Goal Five: Achieve health and well-being at all ages

“Every country should be well-positioned by 2030 to ensure universal health coverage for all citizens at every stage of life, with particular emphasis on the provision of comprehensive and affordable primary health services.”

– Report for the UN Secretary
Prepared by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network
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