

Note for the Record

UHC2030 Working Group on Support to Countries with Fragile or Challenging Operating Environments

Audio conference 14th September 2017, 15:00-16:00 CET

Participants

USAID: Amelia Peltz (Co-chair); UHC2030: Lara Brearley; Independent: Enrico Pavignani; WHO: Andre Griekspoor; Canada/IDRC: Montasser Kamal; MSF: Mit Philips; GIZ: Thorsten Behrendt; GAVI: Kristine Brusletto; ITM: Willem van de Put; OECD: Rachel Scott; DEVCO: Manuel Couffignal and Maryse Simonet; Japan: Noriko Fujita

The call was chaired by Amelia Peltz.

Decisions and actions on agenda items

1. Update on the literature review – Willem van de Put, ITM Antwerp

Willem van de Put provided a progress update on the literature review on the status and initial findings, followed by questions and answers. From the peer reviewed literature review, there has not been a lot on actual health system interventions to improve service delivery. More articles focused on resilience as a precursor to strengthening health systems. These include opinions, suggestions, ideas, experiences, but no guidance as such. There are a lot of articles that describe the contextual factors that make health system strengthening challenging. On coordination, there are a few articles, however little evidence on what works well. There are many gaps in the evidence, and a lack of conceptual clarity on questions such as what is a fragile state, what denotes a functioning ministry of health, and humanitarian principles. There are few studies that analyse impact, or compare across different contexts. The literature is concentrated on a few countries.

A draft of this peer reviewed literature review is with the sub-group for feedback, and ITM is currently working on the same exercise with the grey literature. There will be a substantial methodology component to the report.

It was clarified that a sub-group has been shepherding the process for the literature review, in collaboration with the UHC2030 Core Team. Due to time constraints, the drafts are not being reviewed by the wider Working Group, but the final draft will be shared with the Group in advance of the November in-person meeting and the findings will form the basis of discussions.

Actions:

- Lara will share the lists of references with the Working Group in case there are any particular omissions. Working Group members are requested to send any additional documents by COB Monday 25th September.

- The draft final report from ITM will be circulated with the Working Group and November meeting participants at least a week in advance of the in-person meeting.

2. November meeting – invitees

The November in-person meeting has been confirmed for 8th-9th November in Geneva. The room is booked for 50 people. This can be expanded as necessary, however it would be good to keep the numbers contained to ensure that we can have a focused and productive discussion. It will be important to have the right people around the table, so Working Group members have been asked to both confirm their ability, and to recommend key people to invite.

Actions:

- Working Group members are requested to confirm their ability to attend the in-person Geneva meeting, and to send Lara the names of any experts/practitioners they would suggest we invite to attend, with their organisation, role, contact details and a brief (1-2 sentence) rationale for their involvement by COB Monday 25th September.
- Lara will then compile and review with the Co-chairs and sub-group so that invitations can be circulated without further delay.

3. November meeting – agenda

A draft agenda was circulated in advance of the meeting as the basis for discussion. The meeting objectives were reviewed and agreed, then the session topics discussed.

It would be helpful to get updates from other relevant initiatives, working on HSS and UHC in fragile contexts, so the introductory updates session will be expanded to allow for this, and other related initiatives should be identified and representatives invited to our meeting.

It was acknowledged that the literature will be an important basis for the development of the guidance but it may not be sufficient. In addition to the literature review, we should also discuss what other resources are needed to inform the development of the guidance. The workplan review should also include any additional studies we want to commission in parallel to initiating work to develop the guidance. This discussion could come earlier in the agenda, after the literature review session, then a quick review of workplan timelines before the close of the meeting. The goal is to achieve some consensus on the scope and approach for the guidance development so that this can proceed.

Country case studies and pilot countries may want to consider the 10 countries being pursued for the Japan UHC meeting as relevant (Kenya, Senegal, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Afghanistan, and Haiti), and/or the countries where WHO, WB, UNICEF and WFP are working on closer collaboration.

Actions:

- Working Group members are requested to send any written comments by COB Monday 25th September for Lara to compile, update and agree with Co-chairs/sub-group so that the agenda can be sent out with the invitations.
- Working Group members are requested to identify and inform Lara of any related initiatives from whom an update would be helpful and potential focal people to invite (by COB Monday 25th September).

4. AOB

No other matters were raised.