

Healthy Systems Health Lives

A framework for Health Systems Strengthening towards UHC and health security

UHC2030: working together to strengthen health systems
12th-13th December 2016, Geneva

Purpose of the Paper



This paper outlines a common framework for UHC2030 constituencies and provides key policy entry points for promoting UHC. The Paper will be considered a consensual key reference document for the UHC2030, while also serving as a broader reference for collaboration on the HSS and UHC agenda.

Preventing duplication and fragmentation of initiatives, this paper will play a significant role to feed into the current arrangement of UHC 2030 operationalized in 2017.

Background



Since September 2015, several Global and Regional initiatives have been developed to harmonize health systems strengthening for UHC

It was felt that a consensus framework is needed to further align these initiatives.

In 2015, the government of Germany, as the presidency of G7 launched the roadmap process "Healthy Systems – Healthy Lives" to harmonize health system strengthening

The government of Japan, as the presidency of G7 in 2016, announced the G7 Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health , which politically endorsed the key principles of UHC 2030.

In the Nairobi Declaration of the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) , African countries and their development partners endorsed UHC in Africa: A framework for Action to advance UHC in African region .

More Global and Regional initiatives are expected to launch in coming years.

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"Consensus Paper"

- Representatives of the Governments of Japan, Germany, the World Bank, the WHO and the EC elaborated a consensus in November 2016 on the essential contents of this paper, comprising three sections:
 - 1. A shared commitment to established principles
 - 2. Performance goals and policy entry points to promote UHC through effective HSS
 - 3. Critical components for the way forward

Shared commitments and agreed principles

Country strategies will pay particular attention to all forms of exclusion and ensuring that health systems are also fit for the most vulnerable populations, and IHR core capacity interventions and crisis preparedness are included.

Furthermore, the added value to apply guiding principles is the following:

- **Equity, transparency and accountability** will lead to shared benefits
- **A rights-based and non-discriminating approach** ensures equitable access to health products and services so as to “leave no one behind”
- **Implementation, adapted to country-specific contexts** leads to increased ownership and decreases inefficiencies
- National governments that assume a **stewardship role** in country-level health system strengthening and ensure national and sub-national ownership increase the seriousness and rigour in which action is implemented

Shared commitments and agreed principles

- **National health strategies and plans** are the foundation for an evidence based implementation helping to avoid a process of „muddling through“
- **Development partners' contributions are aligned** on the national health plan, coordinated and harmonized help to increase efficiency
- **An inclusive policy dialogue** (multi-stakeholders, multi-sectors) enables the development, implementation and monitoring of national health strategies and plans, thus increasing ownership by the population

Shared commitments and agreed principles

- **The private sector** is acknowledged as an important stakeholder in the provision of effective, affordable and quality assured health products and services to the population; its interventions must be placed under the stewardship of the national and local government.
- **Active participation of civil society** is key to enable people-centred health services.

Performance goals for effective HSS



Effective HSS to promote UHC requires clarity and consensus on both desired performance goals and policy entry points.

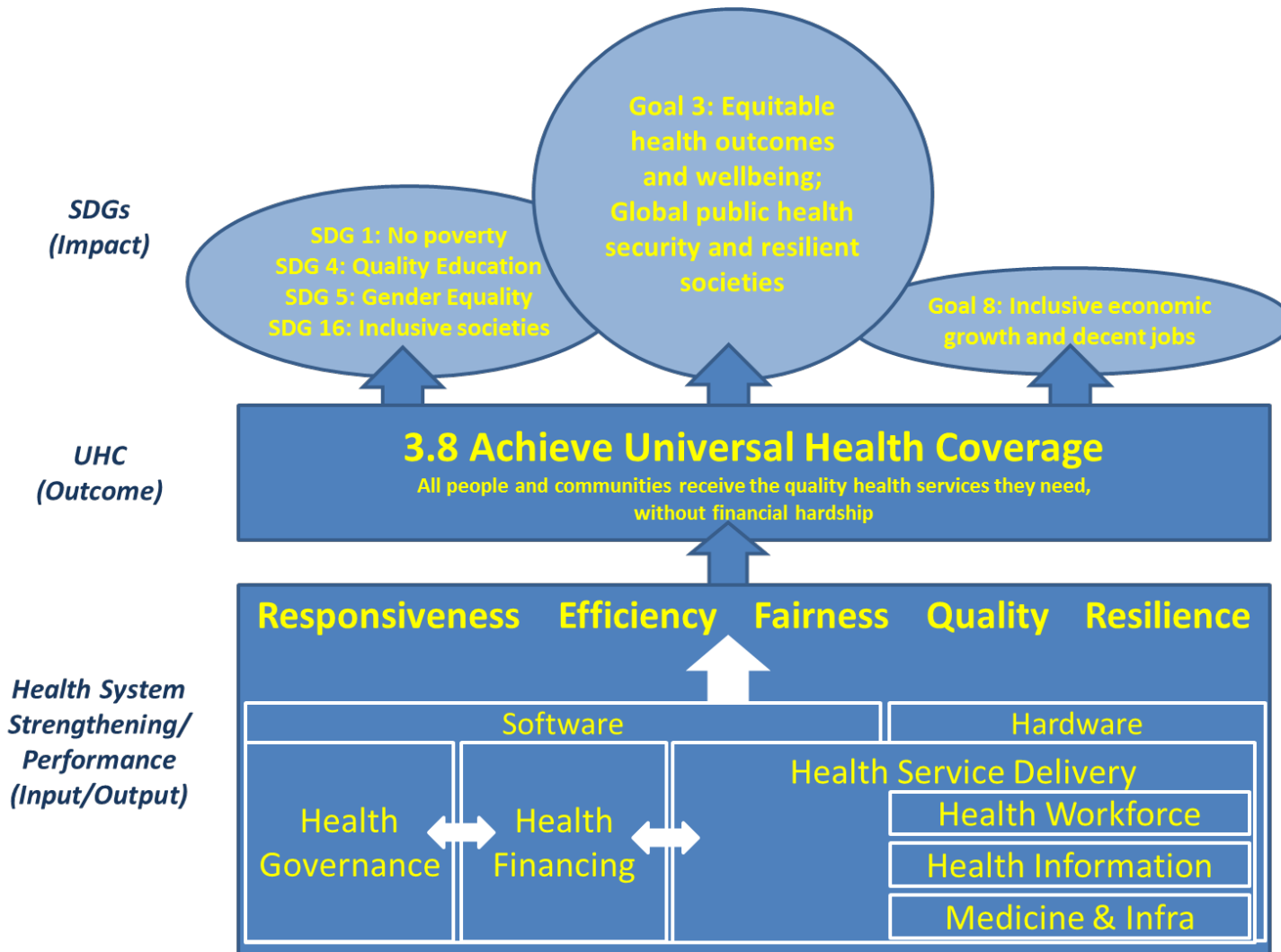
- Five dimensions of health system performance should be the focus on HSS:
 - (i) Fairness in access and financing;
 - (ii) Quality;
 - (iii) Responsiveness;
 - (iv) Efficiency; and
 - (v) Resilience.

Policy entry points for HSS to promote UHC

HSS towards improved health system performance requires country and global action in three interrelated policy areas:

- (i) Service delivery,
- (ii) Financing and
- (iii) Governance.

These are the software of health systems. Effective action to improve service delivery depends on building hardware of health systems, such as workforce, information, medicine and infrastructure in health.



Critical components for the way forward



Country-specific contexts require country-specific solutions that match national priorities and support national health plans and strategies. WHO has developed the following categorisation:

1. (1) **fragile states and low income countries** with very low capacities, resources and hence performance in need of **building the foundations of their health systems** (six potential foundational gaps);
2. (2) **lower middle income countries** with more mature health systems and better levels of performance, in need of **strengthening their institutions**;
3. (3) **upper-middle income and high income countries** performing reasonably well with functional institutions, in need of **transformation** of their health system towards the objectives of UHC.

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Critical components for the way forward

- Existing principles for implementation can benefit from revitalization
- **Multi-stakeholder policy dialogue und strong country leadership is key.** The resulting health policies, strategies and plans form the basis for mutual accountability, where development partners align with the priorities identified and where all partners agree to regularly review mutual commitments.
- **Joint Annual Health Sector Reviews (JAR)**, led by national governments provide a valuable entry point for improving mutual accountability mechanisms.

The way forward...

- The effectiveness of development assistance for health through improved coordination and use of country systems **using IHP+ 7 principles and good behaviours** can be improved.
- The impact of health systems strengthening efforts can be significantly increased by **strengthening monitoring and compliance with alignment**, coordination and harmonization.
- Existing monitoring mechanisms at both national and global levels can be built on and refined in this regard. Lessons learnt from country experience with the Joint Assessment of National Health Strategies (JANS), such as for example in Ethiopia, Ghana and Nepal can be drawn on.

IHP for UHC 2030

...should be utilized to:

- 1) **Improve coordination of HSS efforts** for UHC at global level, including synergies with related technical networks
- 2) **Strengthen multi-stakeholder policy dialogue and coordination of HSS efforts** in aid depending countries, including adherence to IHP+ principles and behaviours.
- 3) **Facilitate accountability for progress towards HSS and UHC** that contributes to a more integrated approach to accountability for SDG3 on health
- 4) **Build political momentum around a shared global vision of HSS for UHC** and advocate for sufficient, appropriate and well-coordinated resource allocation to HSS.