**June 2020 Steering Committee background document: Progress update, and plans to promote ‘health systems that protect everyone’**

1. This document provides background information on UHC2030 progress in the first half of 2020, plus planned actions/products to take forward, in the light of COVID-19, a revised ‘health systems that protect everyone’ vision and narrative. It is structured around the UHC2030 workplan and results areas agreed by the Steering Committee in March 2020, as summarised in this diagram:



1. On 27 May we launched the [UHC2030 discussion paper on health emergencies and UHC](https://www.uhc2030.org/blog-news-events/uhc2030-news/time-to-get-our-act-together-on-health-emergencies-and-uhc-555361/). Building on the 2017 joint vision paper, [*Healthy systems for universal health coverage*](https://www.uhc2030.org/fileadmin/uploads/uhc2030/Documents/About_UHC2030/mgt_arrangemts___docs/UHC2030_Official_documents/UHC2030_vision_paper_WEB2.pdf), the discussion paper proposes a joint vision for resilient health systems and an action agenda based on UHC2030’s Key Asks.
2. The discussion paper highlights that health systems currently face the dual challenge of responding to the epidemic and maintaining essential services. COVID-19 has reignited a debate begun during previous health emergencies: how to make health systems sufficiently resilient to manage shocks in ways that protect everyone, especially the most vulnerable? Where to start thinking differently, and what to start doing differently, to be better prepared for emergencies as well as make progress on univeral health coverage (UHC)?
3. COVID-19 demands that we think about UHC as ‘**protecting everyone’**. It calls for a renewed and urgent focus on public health actions as the first step towards UHC. There is special need for attention on ‘common goods for health’ – things like disease surveillance, laboratories and diagnosis in support of public health activities, health information systems, communications about changing behaviours, engagement of communities and building public trust in the health system – which will largely not be provided by markets, so require public financing and collective action. Relative neglect of these in the past has left communities more vulnerable to epidemics and other shocks.
4. UHC2030 has an important role to play in bringing its partners and members together behind a joint vision for resilient health systems and priority actions for both emergency preparedness and UHC goals. This is so that we can be united in demanding that stronger health systems, based on primary health care, can respond to emergencies effectively, and reach the whole population to leave no one behind.
5. **The focus of the June Steering Committee is to agree on UHC2030 vision, plans and follow-up actions for “health systems that protect everyone”. The meeting objectives are to:**
   1. **Agree UHC2030 vision, plans and follow-up actions for “health systems that protect everyone”, including enhanced focus on common goods for health.**
   2. **Agree resource mobilization plan for 2020-21**
6. The table below provides both a summary of progress in the first half of 2020, and proposed plans/products to take forward this ‘health systems that protect everyone’ vision. In sum, these include:

* Political momentum: elevating political messages, including in HLM follow-up, State of UHC Commitment report and contribution to interim report to UNSG; follow-up actions proposed by political advisory panel
* Shared UHC goals: coherent messaging on health systems and UHC across health and disease programmes, follow-up ‘Reaching the targets’ joint event on how UHC underpins results across health areas.
* Engaged communities: building a movement for health systems that protect everyone, roles of the CSEM and other constituencies
* Harmonised health systems strengthening: UHC2030 role in ACT-A, leveraging UHC2030 TWG outputs, regional/country engagement
* Stakeholder platforms: bring UHC2030 constituencies together around these messages, and provide a shared platform to promote different stakeholders’ contributions
* UHC2030 thought leadership and platform: follow-up webinars and blogs/articles

1. Ahead of the Steering Committee meeting, we are asking UHC2030 constituencies to review the discussion paper, table below, and resource mobilisation plan (to follow), and to discuss the following questions.

**Questions for prior discussion by constituencies to prepare for the Steering Committee call on 29 June**

1. **UHC2030 narrative and actions on ‘health systems that protect everyone’**
   1. Do you agree with the conclusions in the discussion paper on UHC and emergencies? Are there key messages missing?
   2. Do you agree with the proposed action agenda for applying the key asks? Are there key points missing?
   3. Do you agree to UHC2030’s Steering Committee “endorsing” this paper as an agreed UHC2030 narrative on UHC and emergencies plus action agenda based on the Key Asks? (If not – should we formalise the paper in some other way, and what changes are needed in its format/content?)
   4. What are your strategic steers (e.g. key audiences and moments, now to 2023) to promote stronger health systems, based on PHC and common goods for health, that better protect everyone (i.e. UHC and health security goals)? How will your constituency take the messages forward?
   5. Does this set of products sell the unique value of UHC2030 across the results areas the SC agreed in March? (i.e political momentum, shared UHC goals, engaged communities; harmonised health systems strengthening; stakeholder platforms, thought leadership). How can your constituency help strengthen these products further?
2. **UHC2030 resource mobilisation: immediate plan and opportunities**
   1. Do you agree with the proposed ways your constituency can help mobilise funding for UHC2030? Are there other ways to consider?
   2. What are the concrete opportunities to take forward the proposed plan?

| **Results Areas** | **2020 Products**  (\* = ‘core programme’) | **June 2020: Progress update & forward look** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1.1 Political momentum** | 1. \*State of UHC Commitment report 2. \*UHC political advisory panel 3. \*UHC briefs for G7, G20 and other forums | **Progress: On track**   * **State of UHC Commitment Reporton track for launch on UHC Day**. For this flagship product we have mobilized a multi-stakeholder task team across UHC2030 constituencies. The analytical framework for the report will be finalized and launched in July, with the report plus supporting products ready by 12 December. This will include a global synthesis of UHC commitments plus country scorecards. * **UHC political advisory panel mobilized**. The panel is already providing high level guidance and promoting UHC2030’s work – e.g. advice on HLM follow-up, consultation for the [Co-Chairs’ Statement on UHC and Covid-19](https://www.uhc2030.org/blog-news-events/uhc2030-news/faced-by-the-covid-19-crisis-it-is-crucial-that-world-leaders-remember-their-universal-health-coverage-commitments-555343/), and comment/reaction to the discussion paper on emergencies and UHC. Its TOR and political advice plan are available for review by Steering Committee. * Co-Chairs Statement key messages promoted around meetings of G7, G20, World Health Assembly.   **‘Health systems that protect everyone’ plans and products**   * **Promote political messages on UHC, COVID-19 and prioritising common goods for health**   + State of UHC Commitment report   + Messaging and follow-up by UHC political advisory panel members   + Contribution to interim report to UNSG on HLM follow-up. * **G7, G20, etc**: we will ask France, Germany, Japan, OECD to follow up with their Sherpas, reach out to Italy to promote relevant messages in 2021, and contribute briefings as needed. * **Advocacy with parliaments**: we will agree advocacy messages with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and issue a joint letter to presidents of parliaments from the UHC2030 political advisory panel. |
| **1.2 Shared UHC goals** | 1. \*Integrated UHC accountability framework 2. \*Advocacy briefs on coherence across health and disease programmes | **Progress**: **Shift in focus due to COVID-19**   * **Discussions ongoing for integrated accountability framework and UHC2030 role.** The Independent Accountability Panel’s report focus has changed due to COVID-19, with reduced inputs for UHC2030. We are working to identify other opportunities. * **We have promoted coherent messages on resilient health systems in the context of COVID-19**, e.g. [Co-chairs’ statement](https://www.uhc2030.org/blog-news-events/uhc2030-news/faced-by-the-covid-19-crisis-it-is-crucial-that-world-leaders-remember-their-universal-health-coverage-commitments-555343/), [discussion paper on UHC and emergencies](https://www.uhc2030.org/fileadmin/uploads/uhc2030/Documents/Key_Issues/Health_emergencies_and_UHC/UHC2030_discussion_paper_on_health_emergencies_and_UHC_-_May_2020.pdf), [joint blog](https://www.uhc2030.org/blog-news-events/uhc2030-blog/how-covid-19-is-reshaping-priorities-for-both-domestic-resources-and-development-assistance-in-the-health-sector-555362/) on priorities for domestic resources and development assistance.   **‘Health systems that protect everyone’ plans and products**   * **‘Reaching the Targets, one year on’**: HLM follow-up event with disease programmes to reinforce how UHC, based on a coherent approach to resilient health systems, underpins results across health areas. * **Advocacy briefs on coherence across health and disease programmes** **and cross-programmatic efficiency** for resilient health systems in context of COVID-19 (Q3-Q4). |
| **1.3 Engaged communities** | 1. \*‘UHC 101’ + guidance for country advocacy 2. Social Participation Handbook (\*advocacy, support to 2 country processes) 3. \*Consensus approach for funding country CSOs/platforms 4. Budget watchdog toolkit pilots (incl. 2 regional workshops) 5. UHC Day (\*campaigns, grants) | **Progress: Largely on track, adapted due to COVID-19**   * **‘UHC 101’ under development with CSEM** (messaging and advocacy tools for country CSOs). CSEM has also launched the [civil society calls to action on UHC and COVID-19](https://csemonline.net/draft-civil-society-calls-to-action-for-covid-19-released/). * **Diverse views reflected in consultation on WHO social participation handbook** (>100 CSOs and academia), facilitated by UHC2030 and Health Systems Governance Collaborative. Plans developed for further advocacy on social participation at UNGA, in collaboration with PMNCH, and follow-up in countries Q3/Q4 TBC. * **CSO task force convened on common approach to CSO platforms and funding**, jointly with PMNCH and mobilizing other partners. * **Plans under review for ‘virtual joint support’ (with Global Fund, GFF, GAVI) for CSO capacity building on domestic resource mobilization (Q3-Q4)**. The budget watchdog country toolkit pilots have been postponed to 2021 due to COVID-19.   **‘Health systems that protect everyone’ plans and products**   * **Building on the CSEM calls to action on COVID-19 and UHC** the Core Team will work with CSEM to further strengthen and promote advocacy messages and community engagement, based on the action agenda in the emergencies/UHC discussion paper. * **UHC Day**: coordinated campaign on ‘health systems that protect everyone’   + Campaign messages and toolkit   + Micro-grants for country CSOs |
| **2.1 Harmonised health systems strengthening** | 1. \*Harmonised HSS guidance and tools    1. Sustainability and transition    2. Health systems performance assessment    3. Public financial management for UHC    4. Fragile settings 2. Demand-led UHC country compacts    1. \*Updated guidance for different country contexts    2. Country compacts in at least 3 countries 3. \*UHC and health security policy note + collaboration platform TBC | **Progress: UHC and health emergencies policy work and TWGs on track; country compacts delayed by COVID-19**   * **UHC and emergencies discussion paper published.** >400 people attended launch event. The paper has had excellent feedback and we have heard anecdotally that it is already influencing policy discussions in WHO and other organisations. * **UHC2030’s Technical Working Groups are finalizing products (see Core Team report 2019) for a package of HSS tools including:**   + **UHC2030 sustainability and transition TWG** capacity building with CSOs on transition and UHC, joint briefings with disease/health programmes on sustaining coverage during transition, and a guidance paper based on country case studies.   + **Health systems performance assessment (HSPA) framework and template launched June 2020**, including case study learning for its application with countries. Detailed guidance (book product) will be published by end-2020 (launch planned for Health Systems Symposium, November).   + **Joint guidance note on PFM and health systems** has been finalized and will be published soon.   + **Fragile settings** guidance product on health systems assessment completed (2019), plus review and 2 country studies on humanitarian-development coordination. * **Country compacts:** we responded to initial demand for advice in 3 countries (including TOR for a UHC compact in Ghana). This is temporarily on hold due to COVID-19; we will develop updated guidance for different country contexts in Q3/4.   **‘Health systems that protect everyone’ plans and products**   * ***The discussion paper on UHC and emergencies is framing all our work in the COVID-19 context****.* *UHC2030 vision and plans for “health systems that protect everyone”, including enhanced focus on common goods for health, to be discussed further at June Steering Committee.* * **We are identifying opportunities to support coordination for resilient health systems (using messages in the discussion paper) and strengthen planning/coordination**   + Develop and promote a country planning checklist for health systems resilience based on the action agenda in the discussion paper.   + UHC2030 is in ongoing conversations about its role in ACT-A connector and workstreams (financing, data, community engagement) on horizontal health systems.   + Country compacts where countries request them. * **We are leveraging the TWGs** where there are opportunities to do so:   + UHC0230 convened 4 main health financing agencies to agree principles and priorities for domestic resources and development assistance in context of COVID-19 (see blog, 3.2).   + Include resilience dimensions and a specific case study in the HSPA products   + Develop a joint guidance note on COVID-19 and PFM for health   + Mobilise the fragile settings TWG to develop and share learning on implications of COVID-19 for health service delivery in fragile settings. |
| **3.1 Stakeholder platforms** | 1. \*Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (+ Output 1 products) 2. Private Sector Constituency (+ HLM statement follow-up) 3. \*UHC2030 Related Initiatives (+ info pack, joint events) | **Progress:** **On track**   * **Civil Society Calls to Action for COVID-19 developed through an open consultative process**. The CSEM’s new advisory group is on board and operational and helped mobilise a broad range of civil society behind these common advocacy messages. * **Private Sector Constituency has agreed plans for follow-up on their HLM statement** and transition hosting arrangements (successor to World Economic Forum) have been agreed. * **UHC2030 Related Initiatives mobilized** around [joint info pack](https://www.uhc2030.org/fileadmin/uploads/uhc2030/Documents/About_UHC2030/Related_Initiatives/UHC2030_Related_Initiatives_FINAL_April_2020.pdf), [messaging on health systems and COVID-19](https://www.uhc2030.org/blog-news-events/uhc2030-news/insights-for-health-systems-strengthening-in-the-covid-19-response-555352/), and preparations for a joint event on resilient health systems at the Health Systems Symposium (November TBC).   **‘Health systems that protect everyone’ plans and products**   * We will continue to promote joint messaging and blogs, and invite constituencies to propose shared products as part of the SC discussion. See advocacy products under Output 1. |
| **3.2 Knowledge and learning** | 1. \*“PHC for UHC and SDGs” collaborative + knowledge platform (G7, G20) 2. \*5 substantive blogs/papers linked to outputs 1, 2 3. Knowledge hub | **Progress:** **UHC data portal and multiple blogs/papers launched, knowledge hub on hold**   * [**UHC data portal**](https://www.uhc2030.org/what-we-do/knowledge-and-networks/uhc-data-portal/) **launched on UHC2030 website**: a single entry point for access to multiple databases * **Substantive blogs/papers:** [People left behind in decision-making on COVID-19](https://www.uhc2030.org/blog-news-events/uhc2030-blog/sound-the-alarm-people-left-behind-in-decision-making-on-covid-19-555355/), [Access and innovation in private sector response to COVID-19](https://www.uhc2030.org/blog-news-events/uhc2030-blog/access-and-innovation-two-issues-for-the-private-sectors-response-to-covid-19-555360/), [COVID-19 reshaping priorities for domestic resources and development assistance](https://www.uhc2030.org/blog-news-events/uhc2030-blog/how-covid-19-is-reshaping-priorities-for-both-domestic-resources-and-development-assistance-in-the-health-sector-555362/), [Discussion paper on emergencies and UHC](https://www.uhc2030.org/fileadmin/uploads/uhc2030/Documents/Key_Issues/Health_emergencies_and_UHC/UHC2030_discussion_paper_on_health_emergencies_and_UHC_-_May_2020.pdf) (and follow-up actions), etc. * Follow-up on Knowledge Hub put on hold due to lack of funding * PHC collaborative on hold – but UHC2030 platform being used for similar coordination by ACT-A Health Systems Accelerator partners, with longer-term role under discussion.   **‘Health systems that protect everyone’ plans and products**   * We are planning webinars, blogs and papers to bring partners together around messages and actions:   + Webinars being developed (TBC with Health Systems Governance Collaborative, United Cities and Local Governments, ACT-A partners)   + Further papers on resilient health systems, and outreach to journals (BMJ, Lancet Commission on Synergies between UHC, Health Security, and Health Promotion)   + Promoting the UHC2030 platform and its use |
| **4.1 Vision** | 1. \*‘Commitment to action’ vision paper 2. \*Communications strategy (+ website, social media) | * **Narrative and strategic direction for stronger focus on health systems consolidated in the discussion paper on health emergencies and UHC and follow-up** – will be translated into communication products * **Partners kept updated** through regular newsletters (January, April), web updates, Twitter. |
| **4.2 Governance** | 1. \*Steering committee 2. \*Resource mobilization strategy (+ sub-committee) | * **SC meetings and updates delivered to schedule, all UHC2030 constituencies represented**. Follow-up needed on TORs for each constituency and plans to change representation by end 2020. * **Short-term plan to address immediate needs for 2020 and 2021 submitted for review by SC** in June and medium/long term strategy to be finalized during Q3. * **Funding for base programme secured**. New funding from Japan confirmed and potential new donor identified as part of UHC2030 contribution to ACT-A. |
| **4.3 Secretariat** | 1. \*Annual Report (+ interim workplan & results updates) 2. \*Revised co-host administration arrangements | * **Core Team Report 2019 finalised** and ready for dissemination. Progress update shared with Steering Committee in June * **Revised co-host administrative arrangements on hold** – postponed to Q3-Q4 (more complex process given need to consider inclusion of OECD) * **Day-to-day operations on track** |