



# Private Sector Commitments To Universal Health Coverage

UHC2030 Private Sector Constituency 2023 Statement

uhc2030

# Introduction

This statement highlights how the private sector can work with other stakeholders to effectively contribute to achieving universal health coverage (UHC) and is fully aligned with the [Action Agenda from the UHC Movement](#), to which the UHC2030 Private Sector Constituency contributed.

In 2019, UHC2030 Private Sector Constituency (PSC) issued a statement on seven key contributions of the private sector towards achieving UHC. Since that time, the private sector has contributed in a variety of ways and with significant impact to achieving UHC in countries around the world. This 2023 statement comprises an Appendix, which includes a series of case studies to illustrate how different private sectors represented in the UHC2030 PSC are contributing to UHC.

Alongside the other members of the global health community, the UHC2030 Private Sector Constituency herein renews its commitments to UHC, reiterating anew how the private sector effectively contributes to UHC across the globe and support the different policy areas of the Universal Health Coverage Action Agenda from the UHC Movement. That commitment remains as relevant as ever, with the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic having reinforced the need for strong investments in UHC and commitments from across the global health community to work toward achieving UHC.

As the world faces a combination of major crises – war, natural disasters, the effects of climate change and economic headwinds – we must not lose sight of the need to prioritize health as an investment in our shared future. Building strong and resilient health systems with primary health care as their foundation will improve health equity, respond to current health challenges and allow us to be much better prepared for the next threat to global health security. This all begins with a multi-sector response and a commitment to moving together towards achieving UHC.

## Note

This statement builds on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UHC2030 Global Compact, and the 2023 Action Agenda from the UHC Movement, which all promote multi-stakeholder partnership. The five key principles for collective action in the UHC2030 Global Compact are endorsed by all members of UHC2030 and provide a basis for the following principles to guide collaboration that includes the private sector.

## What do we mean by ‘the private sector’?

The private sector includes all health providers not owned or directly controlled by government. It is very diverse and includes for-profit and not-for-profit, formal and informal, and domestic and foreign entities. This statement largely focuses on the **for-profit private sector directly involved in health products and services** (and not, for example, other business sectors that may influence public health).

# Overarching principles

- 1 Leave no one behind**

All partners should recognize that health is a fundamental human right and commit to advancing UHC to benefit all people, everywhere.
- 2 Transparency and accountability for result**

All partners should act responsibly, adhere to established ethical codes of conduct, operate transparently within relevant regulatory and legal frameworks, and recognize their accountability to people and communities.
- 3 Evidence-based national strategies and leadership**

All partners should ensure their efforts are evidence-based and align with national priorities and policies. All partners should also acknowledge and support the roles of government stewardship and public financing in ensuring availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of service delivery across both public and private sectors.
- 4 Making health everybody’s business**

All partners should recognize the private sector has an important role to play in supporting UHC.
- 5 International cooperation based on mutual learning across countries**

All partners commit to fostering mutual learning between one another, particularly in terms of actionable, country-level lessons.

# Private sector commitments

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To build on and maximize the private sector's existing contributions to UHC, the UHC2030 Private Sector Constituency renews its commitments to:

## 1 Incorporate UHC principles, including to leave no one behind, into our business

Whilst the private sector values immediate results, it also takes a medium and long-term approach to business goals and impact. Each time frame is consistent with supporting development of equitable, resilient and sustainable health systems, and with the goals of UHC. In parallel, we are continuing to explore approaches that help to drive greater and more equitable access, as well as the quality and sustainability of our health products and services. This includes a sustained commitment to uphold shared standards of ethical conduct and decision-making, fostering patient trust in their health system and confidence in their care.

## 2 Deliver innovations that respond to the needs of all people including underserved populations, and make these safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable

The private sector provides a wide array of health care products and services globally. This core offering of demand-driven products and services is its greatest contribution to UHC. Private sector innovation is an engine for new and innovative products, techniques, and insights that can not only improve health, but increase health system efficiencies and sustainability. Beyond products and services, the private sector contributes to UHC via innovative approaches and partnerships with government and other stakeholders in the areas of: research and development (R&D), digital technologies, capacity building, health literacy, healthcare delivery models, financing and ethics and business integrity standards – to improve access to quality, affordable vaccines, medicines, diagnostics, surgery and preventive healthcare services.

Digital health technologies are transforming health systems worldwide. The private sector is committed to working with government and other stakeholders to advance new technologies and approaches to expand access, increase efficiencies and rapidly accelerate progress towards UHC.

## 3 Help strengthen the health workforce, responding to local context, priorities and needs

The private sector makes important contributions to training health workers (providing and supporting both pre-service training and continuing education), to knowledge transfer that strengthens health workforce capacities, and to building workforce data and evidence. It is also a major employer of health workers, and commits to continue supporting diversity, equity and inclusion, workplace safety, career development and fair compensation.

## 4 Contribute to efforts to raise the finance available for UHC

The private sector makes catalytic contributions to health financing through both foreign direct investments and blended financing mechanisms for increased domestic resources for health. The role of the private sector through innovative financing models – as well as traditional financing models - can have significant impact on advancing national health systems achievement of UHC. The private sector can support governments to articulate the business case for investing in health and UHC.

## 5 Champion and engage in multi-stakeholder policy dialogues that advance UHC

As highlighted by the UHC Action Agenda, governments alone cannot to achieve UHC: all key stakeholders must play a critical role. The private sector actively seeks opportunities to engage in multi-stakeholder forums led by governments and other stakeholders to promote trust and transparency, institutionalize mechanisms for inclusive health governance to advance UHC objectives in policy and practice.

# Enabling environment

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An enabling environment for private sector contribution towards UHC will require government and other key stakeholders ensure the following:

## Political leadership

Strategic leadership at the highest political level to champion UHC as a national political priority through a whole-of-government approach is highlighted in the UHC2030 Action Agenda. Political leadership is crucial for establishing government willingness to work in partnership with the private sector to achieve UHC.

## Robust regulatory and legal system

Government stewardship of policies, laws and regulations that integrate UHC and health security, ensure accountability and predictability, and safeguard UHC goals of access, health equity and financial protection are essential for ensuring private sector contributions to UHC – particularly when they establish an environment that fosters innovation, entrepreneurship and creates a level playing field.

## Knowledge and evidence on ‘what works’ for health systems and UHC

To inform collective efforts to strengthen health systems, including contributions of the private sector, governments and partners should support and invest in local and national research systems for analysis and evaluation of programs, policies and innovations. This should include building a stronger evidence base for the need to ensure that governments invest in innovation, and support approaches that connect UHC to health security, reinforcing resilience of national health systems.

## Ethics and business integrity

Upholding high-standard ethical business practices and sustaining patient trust is of utmost importance to health systems in creating an enabling environment to advance UHC. There is a need for all stakeholders in health systems to partner together the adoption and implementation of ethical standards in a transparent manner, to protect individuals, building collective capacity, and sharing best practices.

## Next steps: Moving together for UHC

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The Action Agenda from the UHC Movement calls for governments to champion participatory, inclusive governance and coordinate a meaningful whole-of-society approach for universal health coverage and health security.

The UHC2030 Private Sector Constituency developed this statement as a contribution to multi-stakeholder efforts towards UHC, and to voice our support for the UHC Action Agenda. It sets out principles and commitments that the constituency will actively champion.

The statement provides a basis for further dialogue with all UHC stakeholders to promote mutual understanding, a shared vision, and collaborative action for how the private sector can most effectively contribute to UHC.

### About UHC2030 Private Sector Constituency

UHC2030 is the movement to accelerate progress towards UHC by providing a multi-stakeholder platform that promotes collaboration on health systems strengthening at the global and country levels. The UHC2030 Private Sector Constituency, hosted by the World Bank, convenes private sector actors and fosters dialogue and collaboration across the private sector and with other UHC2030 partners, constituencies and networks. Members are for-profit entities within the health value chain such as service providers, health insurers, and manufacturers and distributors of medicines, diagnostics, health products and innovative technologies.

[UHC2030.org](https://www.uhc2030.org)



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