

# **UHC2030 Technical Working Group**

## **Health Systems Assessments (HSA)**

### *Draft Concept note*

#### **Introduction**

At the multistakeholder consultation meeting in June 2016 on UHC2030 - Building a Partnership to Strengthen Health Systems), a session was dedicated to health systems assessments (HSA). This session's panel included WHO, USAID, World Bank, Global Fund, and Ministry of Health representatives from Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The panel examined country health sector diagnostics (health systems assessments) and whether it would make sense to harmonize and align existing methodologies, recognizing the challenge in countries of varying HSA approaches used with a wide range of objectives. This has led to a lack of comparability of results across time as each approach comes with a different set of assumptions and weighting of issues. The June 2016 panel gave broad support for an UHC2030 working group to examine the pros and cons of the various options for harmonization, and eventually develop the options chosen.

UHC2030 convened a further meeting in December 2016<sup>1</sup> to follow up closely on the June conclusions. A round table format provided a forum for stakeholder discussion on how exactly to better harmonize and align, which kind of working group bodies to put together, which stakeholders should be members, and what the objectives of such a working group would be. The round table's recommendations are listed below. In addition, several UHC2030 members have expressed the need to discuss and develop common benchmarking for health system performance assessment.

A clear call to form a UHC 2030 technical working group (TWG) was made to further elaborate on (1) the specifics of HSA harmonization & alignment and (2) a common understanding of measuring health systems performance towards UHC was made and is the object of this concept note.

#### **TWG objectives**

The overall aim of the TWG would be to have an overview of options for doing a HSA, with guidance on how to undertake country-led and country tailored processes. Activities could include:

- Examine all relevant, existing tools and approaches on health systems assessments
- Examine the pros and cons of the various options for harmonization
- Agree on what should be a HSA in the SDG era, with a view to what is needed to progress towards UHC
- Come to a consensus on how to better harmonize the different approaches, where feasible
- Agree upon a country led process that can lead to a harmonized approach for conducting the assessments at country level, given the differing needs and objectives of each specific

---

<sup>1</sup> The Round Table on Health Systems Assessments was part of a 3-part series of round table discussions in December 2016, under the UHC2030 network 'Health Systems Governance Collaborative'

context, as well as the objective of lowering transaction costs from a MoH and Government perspective.

## TWG deliverables

- A report on current HSA tools and methods and recommendations for harmonization and alignment, especially in view of improved comparability of results
- An issue paper on HSA for UHC2030, outlining options for a more harmonized presentation of HSA content and a recommendation regarding HSA process and approach at country level

## Composition of TWG

The following suggestions for the composition of the TWG were made by the UHC2030 December 2016 Round Table discussion:

- Two- or even three-tier groups: (a) a core, more technical group composed of UHC2030 members and recognized experts who will be responsible for producing the deliverables and guide the process of broader consultation; (b) a larger group of UHC2030 who will give regular input at key stages of the harmonization work (this group will include the first group); (c) a potential larger group, including users of assessments, who might give feedback on implementation-related issues and challenges (for examples broad discussion during WHO Regional Committees, UHC days, the World Health Assembly etc.)
- Various constituencies who should be involved (in one or the other tier):
  - Country representatives (Government, MoH & MoF; Private Sector; CSOs; possibly elected officials), including policy makers and users
  - Agencies / programmes that have an assessment tool in active use and/or apply them frequently;
  - Implementing partners, multi and bilateral donors
  - Academia (those who conduct assessments for research purposes);

## Timeline of TWG

The Technical Working Group will be time-limited for a maximum of 24 months with the specific aim of producing the 2 above-mentioned deliverables.

The first meeting of the Core Group will take place in Geneva in August 2017 with the objective of: i) reviewing the ToR for the HSA Working Group, to agree on scope of work, timeline and ways of working, including (other) participants to mobilise or key partners to engage and ii) understanding the details of the different methodologies and outlining different options for commonly-agreed processes for country level HSA, ,

Prior to the first meeting, email and teleconference communication will be used to discuss the objectives, deliverables, composition (including a possible tier structure), and timeline.