

Universal Health Coverage Forum 2017, Tokyo

Side Event

3.00 – 5.30pm, 12 December 2017

Peony Room, Tokyo Prince Hotel

Building the capacity of the health sector to work with other sectors to achieve universal health coverage

Agenda

3.00 – 3.40 pm Introduction

3.00 pm Introduction – Kumanan Rasanathan (UNICEF), Nicole Valentine (WHO) and Patricio Marquez (World Bank) (5 mins)

3.05 pm Overview: Building the capacity of the health sector to work with other sectors to achieve universal health coverage – Nicole Valentine (WHO) (15 mins)

3.20 pm Tobacco taxation – an example of the health sector working with other sectors to achieve universal health coverage – Patricio Marquez (World Bank) (10 mins)

3.30 pm Brief Q+A (10 mins)

3.40 pm – 4.40 pm Panel: Country experiences in building the capacity of the health sector to work with other sectors to achieve universal health coverage

Panellists:

Jeanette Vega (FONASA, Chile)

Maureen Samms-Vaughan (University of the West Indies, Jamaica)

Vincent Atkins (Caribbean Community, Barbados)

Crusivia Hichikumba (Ministry of Health, Zambia)

Anung Sugihantono (Ministry of Health, Indonesia)

Discussants:

Justin Koonin (ACON, Australia, and also CSO Stakeholder group, UHC2030)

Naoko Ueda or Riku Elovainio (OECD)

Moderator: Kumanan Rasanathan (UNICEF)

There will be 20 mins for Q+A with the audience

4.40 pm – 4.50 pm Coffee break

4.50 pm – 5.30 pm UHC2030 Multisectoral Action for Health Working Group

4.50 pm – 5.00 pm Overview: UHC2030 Multisectoral Action for Health Working Group – Kumanan Rasanathan (UNICEF) (10 mins)

5.00 pm – 5.25 pm Open discussion on what countries would like from the Working Group

5.25 pm – 5.30 pm Conclusion

Organizing partners

UNICEF, WHO and the World Bank (in their role as co-organizers of the UHC2030 Multisectoral Working Group)

Topic

Building the capacity of the health sector to work with other sectors to achieve universal health coverage

This session will focus on how to build capacity in the health sector to successfully undertake the three functions detailed above that require interaction with other sectors. In particular, the session will focus on:

1. Securing the inputs of other sectors for fundamental inputs towards UHC
2. Designing mechanisms that facilitate alignment and negotiations with other sectors to address key determinants of health
3. Monitoring the health impacts of actions in other sectors as core UHC monitoring, driving joint accountability between sectors for health consequences.

Country experiences in building capacity from Chile, Jamaica, Zambia, Indonesia and the Caribbean will be highlighted in the session.

Background and Rationale

Action by different thematic sectors beyond the health sector (such as education, infrastructure, agriculture, finance and energy) on the health determinants is well recognized as being fundamental to health progress. Yet such multisectoral action has often proved challenging in practice, with health plans, policies and programming mostly focused on healthcare services. The adoption in 2015 by countries of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030 provides a renewed impetus for countries to implement multisectoral (or intersectoral) action to address complex problems, including reaching the ambitious health targets under SDG 3.

SDG 3 also includes the specific target under 3.8 for countries to achieve universal health coverage (UHC) The bulk of the responsibility for achieving UHC lies with the health sector in countries, stewarded by Ministries of Health. Yet multisectoral action is also required to achieve UHC, with the health sector and Ministries of Health having the following key responsibilities:

1. Ensuring/securing the provision of critical physical and human resources essential to the functioning of health facilities and services from other sectors (e.g. water and sanitation services, energy, roads, education to train health workers)
2. Ensuring alignment of overarching health governance mechanisms (e.g. Health in All Policies), public health programmes and policies of other sectors to address key health determinants and immediate threats (e.g. in epidemic outbreaks, or regulating goods that are harmful to health)
3. Monitoring the health system and health outcome impacts of interventions that are the core business of other sectors

Despite its importance, multisectoral action has often received low levels of attention in current efforts towards UHC. In the context of the SDGs, greater support for countries to implement multisectoral action for health is therefore required, including placing the role of the health sector in such action as a core part of the UHC agenda. Existing efforts on this theme, for example around the 'Health in All Policies' approach and on the political economy of multisectoral action for health, can be drawn upon to support countries in doing so.

In light of these gaps, this side-event at the Universal Health Coverage Forum 2017 in Tokyo will bring together government policy-makers, civil society, experts from academia, the private sector and development partners to discuss how to build capacity in the health sector to work with other sectors to successfully execute a multisectoral approach towards achieving universal health coverage and ensuring healthy lives, drawing on country examples of success and difficulties in doing so.

For queries or further information please contact:

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