

UHC2030

Multisectoral Action for Health Working Group

Workplan 2017-2018 (October 2017)

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. Other initiatives like the Decade of Action on Nutrition are synchronis opportunities for enhancing the use of multisectoral action and offer materials to draw upon. (http://www.who.int/nutrition/decade-of-action/information_flyer/en/)

The transition of the IHP+ to the IHP+ for UHC2030 (UHC2030) provides an ideal platform to increase attention to the requirements from the health sector for multisectoral action for health. In December 2016, the UHC2030 Transitional Steering Committee approved the setting up of a working group on multisectoral action. This working group will be co-led and convened by UNICEF, WHO and the World Bank. At the UHC2030 Annual Meeting also held in December 2016 in Geneva, an initial roundtable was held, co-organized by UNICEF and WHO, to discuss this topic.

This working group is now being convened. Members of the UHC2030 Steering Committee who have interest in this topic are invited to join. This document outlines the draft workplan for this working group, which will be finalized once the group is convened.

Purpose and functioning

The purpose of the UHC2030 Multisectoral Working Group is to:

- Draw attention to the importance of the health sector taking steps to build capacity for multisectoral efforts for health as part of UHC
- Convene partners to leverage their resources to support country capacity and efforts on this theme, including in country plans for UHC
- Link to efforts in other global partnerships on multisectoral health work e.g. Every Woman Every Child; practice communities (e.g. Health in All Policies); Global Coordinating Mechanism for NCDs; Framework Convention on Tobacco Control; the UN Decade of Action on Road Safety; and Pandemic Preparedness and Response, among others. Another example is the WHO Urban Health Initiative which aims to realize health co-benefits by catalysing policy change to tackle air and climate pollution in polluting sectors, such as transport, waste management and household energy, focusing on activities that are also relevant to SDGs 7, 11 and 13.

The working group will not provide direct technical assistance and will also not be a funding mechanism, in keeping with the mandate of UHC2030. The working group will commission high level policy briefs to discuss and synthesize knowledge on the topic, as has occurred previously with IHP+. The working group will be supported by the UHC2030 secretariat, working virtually with a face-to-face annual meeting as part of the UHC2030 annual meetings (and other face-to-face meetings opportunistically). The next annual meeting is scheduled to take place in Tokyo in December 2017.

Proposed activities

1. Development, production and dissemination of a series of policy briefs highlighting key actions to build capacity in the health sector to steer multisectoral action to enable UHC:
 - a. Securing the inputs of other sectors for fundamental inputs towards UHC
 - b. Designing mechanisms that facilitate alignment and negotiations with other sectors to address key determinants of health
 - c. Monitoring the health impacts of actions in other sectors as core UHC monitoring
 - d. Other topics to be developed in response to country demand
2. Convening countries to discuss their needs to build capacity in the health sector for multisectoral action, to share lessons and experiences, and to define clear roles and practices.
3. Catalysing attention to the need for support to countries on multisectoral action as part of global initiatives.

Deliverables in 2017-2018

1. At least three policy briefs (as above) developed based on literature reviews *and* facilitated, web-based discussions with practitioner forums/groups.
2. Face-to-face meeting of Working Group, twice yearly (once at UHC2030 Annual Meeting, once on sidelines of other global event).
3. Side-event at Annual Meeting to bring Working Group together with country representatives/ practitioners to discuss briefs and lessons.

Timeline for 2018

Date	Activity
July 2017	Draft Workplan finalised and approved by co-convenors - completed
October 2017	Initial members of working group convened
December 2017	First face-to-face meeting of working group on sidelines of UHC2030 Annual Meeting in Tokyo (through those attending supplemented by phone) Consultation on content of briefs
February 2018	First virtual meeting of working group Terms of reference and short-listed contractors for each policy brief finalised by working group and co-convenors Contracts for briefs signed, and development commenced
September 2018	Finalisation of drafts of briefs Panel with countries to review drafts of briefs
November 2018	Finalisation of briefs and dissemination

For further information or to express interest in joining the group please contact:

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