

Social Participation Technical Network

Terms of Reference

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Background

The Social Participation Technical Network (SPTN) is a time-bound network within the Health Systems Governance Collaborative. It responds to the Governance Collaborative’s objectives to bring together a range of stakeholders, catalyse strategic thinking, and influence best practices by informing WHO guidance.

The time-bound nature of this Network is linked to the deliverable of a WHO Handbook on Social Participation for UHC which will be published by Q4 of 2019. This deliverable recognizes the importance of the role of civil society and communities, in addition to governments, in achieving WHO’s Global Programme of Work (GWP) ambition of one billion more people benefitting from UHC by 2030.

In addition to the GPW, a recommendation of the report of the WHO Task Team on WHO-Civil Society Engagement was for WHO to specifically emphasize and promote civil society participation in policy processes and provide guidance for Member States to do so. This work is also consistent with the objectives of the [Global Action Plan Accelerator 3](#) on governance and accountability and should complement their work in this area.

The WHO Handbook on Social Participation for UHC responds to this recommendation, and aims to strengthen systematic and meaningful civil society participation in aspects concerning the full planning cycle, including national policy, planning and review processes.

The Social Participation Technical Network will act as an advisory body for development of the Handbook, as elaborated upon in more detail below.

Objectives

The objectives of the SPTN are:

1. To inform the development of the WHO Handbook on Social Participation for UHC.

2. To advance learning on the agenda of Member State governments more meaningfully engaging with civil society, communities, and its populations for health-related matters, including exploration of selected politically sensitive challenges¹, and facilitation of peer exchange.
3. To advocate the importance of social participation for equitable pathways towards UHC, including dissemination and promotion of the Handbook.

It is anticipated that the CSP will exist from January 2019 – December 2020, through the period of development of the Handbook and its dissemination and promotion after publication.

Activities

Once convened, the SPTN will agree their workplan for 2019 and associated budget. This will include specific activities and products which will contribute to Handbook development, and the Network's specific role linked to each activity/product.

Proposed activities and products which will contribute to the Handbook include:

- Literature review / Introduction to the topic of engagement with population, civil society, and communities in national health planning and decision-making processes (Q1 2019)
- Cross-cutting lessons learned report emanating from 3-4 case studies on large-scale population consultation processes steered at national level (Thailand's National Health Assembly, Tunisia's Societal Dialogue for Health, Iran's National Health Assembly, France's 'health democracy' efforts) (Q1-2 2019)
- Lessons learned emanating from community engagement mechanisms – "going from the local to the national"
- 2-4 country case studies (description & SWOT analyses) of Civil Society Organization (CSO) engagement in national planning/review processes, including a descriptive mapping study on Faith-Based Organizations' (FBO) role in UHC (Q1-3 2019)
- Events to mobilise interest in this agenda and facilitate peer exchange e.g. AMREF conference in March 2019, Kigali, WHA side event,, UNGA side event, PMAC event, etc.
- April 2019 face-to-face of the SPTN to discuss findings and inform WHO-led research for the Handbook
- Feedback on draft WHO Handbook (Q2-3 2019)
- Face-to-face meeting of the SPTN to review the draft and agree the dissemination and advocacy plan (October 2019)

Ways of working

The SPTN includes representation from Member State governments, institutions involved in population and community engagement platforms, civil society organizations, communities, and academia.

Members of the SPTN shall therefore include Ministry of Health planning focal points from interested countries, other (government) institutions engaged in social participation (such as the National Ethics Council in France, the National Health Commission Office in Thailand, etc.), UHC2030

¹ Such as enabling representative participation of civil society and managing vested interests, and power dynamics and the scope for civil society participation to influence decision-making.

Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (CSEM) representatives, academics specialized in accountability in health governance, and community representatives.

The SPTN is co-convened by Member States and the UHC2030 Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (CSEM) with co-chairs from within these constituencies and secretariat support from WHO/UHC2030.

Communication will be through a mixture of teleconferences, email exchange, face to face meetings, and through the Governance Collaborative online platform.

There will be 2 face-to-face meeting of the members, and other opportunistic in-person meetings on the sidelines of other events as appropriate.

Role of co-chairs

The co-chairs reflect the multi-stakeholder nature of the SPTN and are composed of a Member States representative and a civil society representative, who is also a Co-Chair of the UHC2030 Steering Committee.

The Co-Chairs, together with the secretariat of the SPTN, will promote the aims and objectives of the SPTN, provide strategic guidance to the group in the development of the workplan and oversee its implementation.

Concrete tasks of the Co-Chairs:

- To chair face-to-face meetings as well as online / teleconferences
- To provide technical support to the secretariat in preparing those events
- To support the preparation of the workplan and oversee its implementation

The Co-Chairs are:

- Mette Kinoti/Githinji Gitahi AMREF & UHC2030 Steering Committee
- Justin Koonin, CSEM
- Jean-Francois Delfraissy, National Ethics Council, France