



UHC2030 STEERING COMMITTEE
3rd Session - 4-5 June 2018
Hotel Novotel
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UHC2030 ENGAGEMENT OF LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES

For Information **For discussion** **For Approval**

UHC2030 ENGAGEMENT OF LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES

STEERING COMMITTEE DISCUSSION, JUNE 2018

With the aim to mobilise a movement for accelerating equitable and sustainable progress towards universal health coverage (UHC), it is critical that we add value to countries. Since the transition from IHP+ to the International Health Partnership for UHC 2030 (UHC2030), there has been significant attention to global level initiatives, and various constituencies, with a risk of diluted emphasis on country level impact. There is also a need for common understanding among partners about how UHC2030 does, and should, engage countries. We are aware that country engagement is a broader agenda – and this would involve a focus on high income country partners as well as non-government stakeholders at country level. This discussion is intentionally focused on low- and middle-income countries as key constituencies of UHC2030.

The **objective** of this discussion is to identify how UHC2030 can better support low- and middle-income country governments in their efforts to achieve UHC. This should make UHC2030 more relevant for countries and responsive to their needs and interests in relation to accelerating the pace of change towards UHC. As ever, this is not about doing more in countries, but better for countries.

It is anticipated that the **outcomes** of this discussion will help UHC2030 articulate the relevance and added value of the partnership for countries; inform the implementation of the existing activities as well as future iterations of our workplan; and promote more active engagement of the low- and middle-income country constituencies within UHC2030.

Preparation for this discussion involved a quick review of existing engagement of low- and middle-income countries in our workplan areas, and a consultation with our low- and middle-income country Steering Committee representatives to gather inputs and shape this initial discussion so that it reflects country interests and perspectives. Note that this was a rapid exercise and it is by no means comprehensive of all country partner perspectives or all potential opportunities to strengthen engagement.

The scoping identified the following **opportunities** to strengthen engagement through:

- Adjusting approaches in **existing workstreams/Technical Working Groups**.
- Convening **in-person meetings** of country representatives to review progress, learn and exchange.
- Supporting countries with the **coordination of related initiatives**
- Revisiting the **effective development cooperation** agenda with emphasis on mutual accountability, including updating the IHP+ tools.

Questions for discussion: These suggestions should provide a basis for the Steering Committee to:

- reflect and discuss how UHC2030 can better support low- and middle-income countries to accelerate progress towards UHC, and
- agree next steps to advance this agenda.

UHC2030 engagement of low- and middle-income countries

Steering Committee Discussion, June 2018



Background

Why this discussion now?

- Important to ensure UHC2030 adds value to countries – not about more IN countries but FOR countries
- Risk of diluted emphasis on country level impact since transition to UHC2030
- Different interpretation amongst partners about how UHC2030 does and should engage countries
- Note: limitations of this exercise & the range of stakeholders for country engagement – initial focus L&MIC governments



Objective

To identify how UHC2030 can better support L&MIC governments in their efforts to achieve UHC

- *Articulate the relevance/added value of UHC2030*
- *Inform future areas of work/activities*
- *Promote active engagement of L&MIC constituencies*



Current/**planned** L&MIC government engagement

- *EDC: UHC Financing Forum side event; **narrative & roadmap***
- *Fragile States TWG: In-person meeting; WHA side event; **advocacy/call for action; support to coordination; tools (e.g. HSA)***
- *HSA TWG: TWG participation; guidance for harmonised approach*
- *PFM TWG: TWG participation; joint missions; **joint assessments; studies***
- *Sustainability & Transition TWG: TWG participation; common principles; **joint country work***



Current/planned L&MIC government engagement

- *Accountability: Strengthened social accountability; citizen participation in national planning/reviews – WHA side event & UHC Partnership/CSEM links; SDG3 follow-up and review*
- *Advocacy: Framework/messaging for advocacy, especially global e.g. International UHC Day, High Level Meeting on UHC 2019*
- *Communications: UHC2030 news stories; newsletter outreach; social media; partner perspectives interviews; promotion materials; template opeds/news articles etc.*
- *Knowledge Management: Strategy - knowledge hub*



L&MIC government engagement: related initiatives

- **HDC:** 3 pathfinder countries - Joint support to develop and cost national M&E plans, map partner and domestic resources in measurement, develop common investment framework, identify health data priorities for investment and joint technical support.
- **JLN:** 30 member countries - implementation aspects of technical tracks identified as priorities for knowledge exchange
- **UHC Partnership:** 35 countries - operational support to countries for policy and planning processes through deployment of resources (financial and HR), joint missions to countries, technical assistance to countries tailored to needs / context
- **P4H:** 37 countries - Collaboration in countries with all involved stakeholders (focal points in countries and regional level belonging to different agencies but with functional relationship with P4H coordination desk on global desk); exchange of information between international partners & joint activities at global/regional level; digital platform; leadership course
- **GHWN:** pilot countries (focus SEARO) on implementation of national health workforce accounts
- **PHCPI:** currently developing list of focus countries



Future opportunities?

- Engagement in existing workstreams/TWGs
- EDC and mutual accountability, including updated IHP+ tools
- Support to countries with coordination of related initiatives
- Country meetings to review progress & exchange



...Accelerate **political will** at the highest level... Countries do not have a linear trajectory towards UHC and **incentives** at global and country level need to **support and protect the UHC agenda**. Many countries are experiencing fiscal tightening and here work on UHC can be the first to take a hit.

...Mechanisms to support countries that **temporarily regress** on the path to UHC for whatever reason.

...Identifying **how countries can leapfrog** towards UHC... **new** knowledge... a menu of options... and **mistakes** that countries have made... this would be extremely useful, it is a function we don't have time for in countries.



Engagement in the existing workstreams/TWGs

- *Knowledge Management:*
 - A **repository of tools** to help countries navigate and identify appropriate tools
 - **Knowledge summaries**, synthesising guidance/evidence/best practice with emphasis on **how countries can leapfrog** towards UHC (e.g. digital health opportunities, lessons from OECD countries). Produced with RIs/technical partners, for different audiences – make this accessible & well known
- *Advocacy:* **Political momentum** – especially beyond MoH – MoF, Head of State etc., not preaching to the converted
- *Accountability:* **Civil society engagement/participation** at country level – need for strong civil society voice, limited knowledge on how best to engage
- *Communications:* **Raise awareness** on UHC2030 within countries & high level leadership – briefing by WRs/TTLs including info on TWGs, RIs, tools etc.



Engagement in the existing workstreams/TWGs

- **Multisectoral agenda** – supporting countries to design strategies
- **PFM** – effective approaches to engage MoF, guidance, sharing/learning
- **Transition** – Managing and incentivising adherence to good practice principles
- **TWG & SC meetings in countries beyond Geneva; with field trips** for sharing & learning. This can also amplify domestic political momentum for UHC



Effective Development Cooperation & mutual accountability, including updated IHP+ tools

SDG context, broader range of partners, relevance for emergency settings, link with HSS & UHC

- Thought leadership & advocacy on what constitutes **appropriate development assistance for health (DAH)**– catalytic, TA, fewer large capital investments etc.
- Support to countries on **convening relevant partners on UHC** within countries– where UHC is a domestic priority agenda, how to bring all relevant around the table to focus/align/measure progress
- NB Need to improve collaboration with **new non-traditional development partners/donors**



Support to countries with coordination of related initiatives

“:It is hard but possible”

- **Need for better coordination** across HSS networks at global & country levels – overlaps, confusion, competition, duplication
- The problem is **broader than UHC2030 RIs** (also SRMNCAH & communicable disease networks/funds/global programmes, ILO social protection work)
- **Joint missions** preferable to reduce transaction costs and promote synergies
- Link with **national planning process**



Country meetings to review progress & exchange

- **Piggy back on existing meetings** – e.g. AA40, UHC Partnership meeting in Marrakech, PMAC, WB/IMF Annual meetings/UHC Financing Forum etc.
- **Intentional/strategic use** of different meetings - different partners/emphases (e.g. technical, political, MoF or MoH or Head of State etc.)
- **Country-led agendas** – increased country voice/participation in planning/setting the focus of meetings, link with leapfrogging lessons on HOW to progress, sharing mistakes & successes
- Combine **political and technical** agendas where possible



...We have mechanisms/partnership agreements in place aimed at coordination of all actors in the sector. **But we need a better way of managing and incentivising this**

...Partnership agreements should reflect country plans on UHC and include good practice principles of transition. If this is not the case the UHC discussions are not meaningful... **accountability for the transition process** is part of [protecting UHC]



Discussion

- Does this **reflect** the L&MIC sentiment?
- What are we **missing**?
- Priority opportunities for **meetings** and key **themes**?



Proposed next steps

- Consolidate the **country constituency** approach with Core Team focal point.
- **Country focused meetings:**
 - Reconvene the country teams meetings every 2 years, working closely with the UHC Partnership
 - Identify related meetings to influence/meet alongside
 - Engage the constituency to set the agenda & objectives for country focused meetings
- **Meetings *in* L/MICs**
 - 1 SC meeting/year
 - TWG meetings where possible
- Develop **info pack for countries** on UHC2030, who we are & what we offer – equip WRs/TTLs (and other partners) to raise awareness in country

