

International Health Partnership for UHC 2030 (UHC2030)

Accountability Review

Terms of Reference

Background

In December 2016, the UHC2030 transitional Steering Committee approved the 2017 workplan, which includes the development and implementation of a strategy for accountability. This responds to the partnership's objective to facilitate accountability for progress towards health systems strengthening (HSS) and UHC that leaves no one behind and contributes to a more integrated approach to accountability for health in the SDGs. As a multi-stakeholder partnership with a mandate on health systems and UHC, UHC2030 has the potential to convene partners and foster synergies for a more harmonised approach to strengthening participatory accountability mechanisms for health systems and UHC that are institutionalised in the sector. It can also help to stimulate the more political debates and processes that influence UHC related policy choices and reforms.

In defining the way forward for UHC2030 on accountability, it is crucial that UHC2030 adds value to the existing landscape of accountability initiatives in health and related sectors, including the WHO and World Bank plans to report on the SDG indicators for target 3.8, and leverages the official SDG reporting processes. The work of the partnership on accountability should also build on lessons from what has worked well in the past – both within the partnership and by other stakeholders. Advocacy will be essential to the partnership's work on accountability to shift behaviours and drive action to accelerate equitable progress towards UHC. This will require close collaboration with the UHC2030 advocacy and communications workstreams. Civil society plays a crucial role in accountability efforts, so linkages with the UHC2030 Civil Society Engagement Mechanism¹ will also be essential, to ensure complementarities and collaboration where appropriate on accountability efforts.

As per the approach approved by the Steering Committee, a review of selected existing accountability initiatives in health and related sectors will be commissioned to inform the UHC2030 accountability strategy. This focuses on what UHC2030 can be doing to strengthen accountability for UHC. Note that the future added value of the partnership to strengthening accountability for EDC in health is being explored separately.

Objectives

The objectives of the review are as follows:

- **To map and review existing accountability initiatives².**

¹ The CSO proposal, dated November 2016, includes objectives to strengthen citizen-led social accountability mechanisms at sub-national, national, regional and global levels, including production of a shadow UHC accountability report, and also a role in harmonising CSO platforms and networks working on health issues at the country level. These activities have potential implications for UHC2030 in terms of financial and technical support and capacity strengthening.

² Including, for example, any health system related accountability efforts, initiatives under the Unified Accountability Framework for Every Woman, Every Child, the Global Accountability Framework for Non-Communicable Diseases, and efforts to support countries with participatory UHC assessments, planning and review processes, as well as selected initiatives in related sectors such as education and water and sanitation.

- To identify **best practices** at country, regional and global levels for institutionalising multi-stakeholder accountability mechanisms, and the roles of different stakeholders, particularly with a view to affecting change³.
- To identify **options for a broad framework for UHC accountability**, building on existing efforts. This should involve a review of existing accountability frameworks in health and beyond, for instance the Commission on Information and Accountability for women’s, children’s and adolescents’ health framework which sets out three interconnected processes of monitoring, review and remedial action, to be considered at local, country, regional and global levels.⁴
- **To explore the potential added value for UHC2030, including opportunities for harmonisation/synergies** across sub-sectoral efforts. This should include proposed **activities for UHC2030 in 2017 and 2018** to strengthen accountability for UHC, across the functions of monitoring, review and remedial action (and any others identified in the accountability framework) at country, regional and global levels.

Scope of work

The work will involve a mix of desk review of existing documentation and consultation with key partners. The consultation will be both bilateral outreach and convening a meeting to collectively discuss gaps, opportunities for synergies, the added value of UHC2030, and activities for 2017 and 2018. The range of partners should include focal people in existing accountability efforts and selected members of the partnership, identified in collaboration with the Core Team. Please note that an expert advisory group is being convened which will also provide feedback on the draft deliverables.

Deliverables

The final deliverable will be a short report (max 20 pages) with:

- **Recommendations** for UHC2030 on:
 - **Options for an accountability framework for UHC.** This should clarify concepts and specify who is accountable to whom and for what, the role of EDC in accountability for health systems and UHC, and how this may play out at global, regional and country levels.
 - **Proposed functions and specific activities** for UHC2030 at country, regional and global levels that add value and contribute to a more integrated approach to accountability for health in the SDGs. This should be multi-stakeholder in scope and specify key partners to engage.
- **Mapping and review** of existing accountability efforts as an annex, identifying key lessons.

These will be used to inform the UHC2030 accountability strategy, along with future added value to strengthening accountability for EDC in health.

The **timeline** of deliverables to be submitted to the Core Team is as follows:

Deliverable	Due date
1. Inception report: Workplan and detailed methodology for review, including key considerations for the UHC framework, a proposed list of the initiatives to review, main documents for the desk based	Mid-February 2017

³ Note that this should not duplicate the literature review being undertaken by the USAID HFG working group on accountability and governance.

⁴ <http://www.who.int/pmnch/activities/accountability/framework/en/>.

review, key informants to be interviewed, and semi-structured interview questions, and plan for the consultation meeting	
2. Draft final report (1 week for feedback) and a short meeting report from the consultation	Mid-March 2017
3. Final report	End-March 2017

Prospective candidates are requested to confirm their availability and provide a brief outline of the approach, an estimated budget, and their CV.

Requirements/competencies

- Demonstrated qualitative and quantitative research expertise
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Demonstrated expertise in global health and country health systems, governance, accountability mechanisms, and the roles of different stakeholders.