E1. Why are transparency, access to information and citizen participation relevant in the context of UHC?

The UHC2030 joint vision (4) argues that transparency, access to information and participation are crucial for achieving UHC. For UHC2030, improved health systems are the basis for achieving UHC, and actions are necessary in three policy areas: service delivery, health financing and governance (Fig. 9).

Fig. 9. Improved health system performance requires national, regional and global action in three interrelated health systems policy areas

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Chapter 2. Core content for understanding universal health coverage and public budgets for health

Module 2. Introduction to public financing for health relevant for budget advocacy for universal health coverage

Section E. Transparency, access to information and citizen participation as key elements of budget advocacy and budget accountability
In terms of governance, citizen participation and use of information, including budget information, should be promoted. In this joint vision (4),

Governance is concerned with the processes and institutions for collective decision-making. Governance arrangements determine key institutional attributes such as transparency, accountability, participation, integrity and capacity and therefore have far-reaching consequences for system performance.

Those interested in budget advocacy for UHC should therefore be familiarized with best practices in budget transparency, access to information and citizen participation. The subsections below provide input from the international promoters of these aspects of governance, which, although they refer to more general accountability, are equally important for UHC.