Handbook on Social Participation for UHC

GENERAL INTRODUCTION
**Background** for WHO to engage more proactively with civil society

The WHO Task Team on WHO-Civil Society Engagement recommended that WHO should specifically emphasize and promote civil society participation in policy processes and provide guidance for Member States to do so. The Handbook on Social Participation for UHC is a result of this.
**Political commitment to participation**

Member States at the UN High Level Meeting on UHC made a commitment to engage relevant stakeholders, including civil society, through establishing participatory and transparent multi-stakeholder processes for influencing policies and reviews of progress on UHC.

**Political Declaration on UHC**

Paragraph 43: Engage all relevant stakeholders, including the civil society, private sector, philanthropic foundations, academic institutions and community, as appropriate, through the establishment of participatory governance platforms and multi-stakeholder partnerships, in the development and implementation of health- and social-related policies and progress monitoring to the achievement of national objectives for UHC, while giving due regard to managing conflicts of interest.
Concept of Handbook on Social Participation for UHC

The aim of the handbook is to support Member States to undertake social participation engagement processes in the health sector.

Key audience

Member States

Engagement modalities from a government perspective

Mechanisms, platforms, approaches, best practices

1. Direct engagement with populations
2. Population engagement through civil society
3. Population engagement through communities

Objectives of social participation

Policy dialogue & policy decision-making in national health planning
Evidence generation for the handbook

- Literature review
- Country case studies
- Civil society consultation process
- WHO internal expert group meetings
- External advisory group meetings
- Webinars
The literature review covers these areas:

1. Terms and definitions linked to social participation
2. Civil society theory (political and social science literature)
3. Population engagement and decision-making: the deliberation-to-policy gap
4. Representation in participation
5. Capacities needed for effective population engagement
6. Legal frameworks for participation
7. Sustaining participation in the long term
Outline Handbook on Social Participation for UHC

Chapter 1  Introduction to the topic of engagement with population, civil society, and communities in national health planning and decision-making processes

Chapter 2  An enabling environment for social participation

Chapter 3  Representation in participation

Chapter 4  Necessary capacities for mutually beneficial government engagement with populations, communities and civil society

Chapter 5  Population engagement and decision-making: the deliberation-to-policy gap

Chapter 6  Legal frameworks which enhance participation

Chapter 7  Sustaining participatory engagement over time

Chapter 8  Overall conclusions and recommendations
**Timeline of handbook development**

**December 2018**  
WHO-CSO Task Force on civil society engagement recommends guidance on social participation for Member States.

**February – Aug 2019**  
Literature reviews.

**March & June 2019**  
Consultations with Internal WHO Advisory Group.

**March – September 2019**  
Case study data collection.

**April & October 2019**  
Consultation with Social Participation Technical Network.

**September 2019**  
Political Declaration on UHC includes Paragraph 43 on engagement of population & stakeholders through participatory governance platforms.

**Dec 2019 – Jan 2020**  
Civil society consultation on chapter key messages.

**Early Feb – March 2020**  
Civil society consultation on full chapters plus webinars.

**May 2020**  
Social Participation Handbook published and launched at the World Health Assembly.