

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

External advisory
group meetings

WHO internal expert
group meetings

Civil society
consultation process

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

