Moving Together to Build a Healthier World

Key Asks from the UHC Movement

UN High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage

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Ensure Political Leadership Beyond Health – Commit to achieve UHC for healthy lives and well-being for all at all stages, as a social contract.

Health is the foundation for people, communities and economies to reach their full potential. Universal health coverage (UHC) is primarily the responsibility of governments, which ensure people's health as a social contract. Achieving UHC is essential for inclusive development, prosperity and fairness, and requires political decisions that go beyond the health sector.

Leave No One Behind – Pursue equity in access to quality health services with financial protection.

Health is enshrined as one of the fundamental rights of every human being. UHC is key to reducing poverty and promoting equity and social cohesion. Governments should invest in everyone's health. Extension of geographical coverage and reaching the most marginalised and hard-to-reach populations are essential to achieving positive health outcomes. A strong system for monitoring and evaluation is needed to ensure accountability and participation.

Regulate and Legislate – Create a strong, enabling regulatory and legal environment responsive to people’s needs.

UHC requires a sound legal and regulatory framework and institutional capacity to ensure the rights of people and meet their needs. Governments are the primary duty bearer under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, even in cases when they rely on private providers.

Uphold Quality of Care – Build quality health systems that people and communities trust.

Quality primary health care (PHC) is the backbone of UHC and creates trust in public institutions. Expansion of health coverage must be accompanied by investments in the quality of health services. People should be able to access a full spectrum of safe, quality services and products in their community, delivered by well-trained, well-paid, culturally and gender-sensitive health workers.


Current funding levels are insufficient to achieve UHC by 2030. Governments need to increase domestic investment and allocate more public financing for health through equitable and mandatory resources. Governments must improve efficiency and equity in the use of existing resources and reduce reliance on impoverishing out-of-pocket payments. Development assistance to health should reduce fragmentation and strengthen national health financing capacities.

Move Together – Establish multi-stakeholder mechanisms for engaging the whole of society for a healthier world.

All countries must take active steps to meaningfully engage non-governmental actors - particularly from unserved, underserved or poorly-served populations - in shaping the UHC agenda. Solutions for each country must be tailored to context and population needs. The international community and global health partners should unite to support countries to build a healthier world.

**MILESTONE**

By 2023, governments incorporate aspirational health-related SDG targets into national planning processes, policies and strategies to ensure everyone can access quality health services without financial hardship.

**MILESTONE**

By 2023, governments report disaggregated data to SDG official statistics to capture the full spectrum of the equity dimensions of UHC monitoring progress (SDG 3.8.1 and 3.8.2).

**MILESTONE**

By 2023, governments introduce legal and regulatory measures that accelerate progress toward UHC.

**MILESTONE**

By 2023, the coverage of quality essential health services has been delivered to one billion additional people (SDG 3.8.1).

**MILESTONE**

By 2023, governments adopt ambitious investment goals for UHC, make progress in mobilising domestic pooled funding and reduce catastrophic health expenditure (SDG 3.8.2).

**MILESTONE**

By 2023, all UN Member States join the UHC Movement and establish multi-stakeholder platforms to ensure the involvement of civil society, communities and the private sector, in regular policy dialogue and review of progress with all government actors.
The UN High-Level Meeting (UN HLM) on UHC is a major opportunity to mobilise the highest political support for UHC as the cornerstone to achieving SDG3 and uniting other health agendas under a common theme. To deliver impact at the UN HLM, it is critical to identify how the Political Declaration can create an agenda and set milestones for achieving UHC by 2030.

To develop a set of key asks for the UN HLM, UHC2030 conducted three-month consultations with all actors of the UHC movement – parliamentarians, civil society, the private sector, agencies, networks and academia. The UHC Key Asks will feed into the UHC Political Declaration, and are the foundation for coordinated advocacy efforts that all partners can promote together throughout the preparation of the UN HLM, the Financing for Development Forum and the SDG Summit as well as other regional or economic fora in 2019.

### ACTION AGENDA

#### Ask 1: Ensure Political Leadership Beyond Health

- Prioritise UHC as a commitment at all levels of government and as a whole-of-government and whole-of-society action in order to provide equitable access to health services, irrespective of socio-economic and legal status, health condition, disease, religion, gender, age or any other factors.
- Prioritise essential public health functions and address the social, environmental and commercial determinants of health.
- Support international and national regulation and fight tax evasion and corruption through cooperation with finance ministries, national treasuries and national anti-corruption agencies to ensure more powerful people and entities pay their fair share.
- Invest in health as a key component of sound macro-economic policies to foster economic growth, human capital and workforce participation, especially for women.
- Promote peace and strengthen cooperation between humanitarian and development actors in fragile settings. Develop strong relationships to enhance the health security agenda, including through resilient foresight capabilities.
- Strengthen national policy and institutional coherence between trade and intellectual property for the right to health. This requires establishing inter-ministerial bodies to coordinate laws, policies and practices that impact health technology innovation and access.

#### Ask 2: Leave No One Behind

- Establish resilient, responsive and inclusive health systems that are accessible to all, irrespective of socio-economic or legal status, health condition or any other factors. Such systems should prioritise an essential health package based on PHC principles.
- Incorporate the health needs of vulnerable populations, in particular in fragile settings, in national and local health care policies and plans, with increased focus on PHC, including disease prevention, immunisation services and health promotion activities.
- Establish inclusive social accountability mechanisms for all parts of the health system so that everyone is responsible for progress toward UHC.
- Pursue the concept of progressive universalism and establish health systems that promote equity, reduce stigma and remove barriers based on multiple types of discrimination. Improving health outcomes for populations on the move, migrants and refugees is critical, as huge gaps remain to be addressed.
- Institutionalise data collection to implement the SDG Global Indicator Framework, especially concerning indicator 3.8.1. and 3.8.2 with equity dimensions of progress (age, sex, geographical location, income level).
- Evaluate the impact of policies and programmes regularly and document who is left behind to promote inclusive access and utilisation of health services.

#### Ask 3: Regulate and Legislate

- Create an evolving and responsible regulatory and legal system that sets an ethical framework, promotes responsiveness and inclusiveness of all stakeholders and supports innovations. This system must respond to changing needs and comply with medical and public health ethics in a period of rapid technological evolution and medical innovation.
- Set and implement national quality control mechanisms or minimum national quality health service standards, and create legislation on data protection and security, patient rights and the education of health workers.
- Prioritise public oversight, data protection and data ownership by the patient, and resolve data transferability.
- Support redress mechanisms to manage conflicts of interests that aim to promote equity, quality and financial risk protection.
- Take steps to ensure coherence with national and international legislations on population health, such as tobacco legislation, including the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), labour laws, emergency response and implementation of IHR, international humanitarian principles and international human rights laws.
- Invest in health regulatory agencies (food & drug; tobacco & alcohol; medicines & technologies; medical & nursing training) and the implementation of the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel, the FCTC and other existing laws.
The document contains several sections with headings, each containing bullet points and paragraphs discussing various aspects of health care. The sections are titled: Uphold Quality of Care, Invest More, Invest Better, and Move Together. Each section outlines strategies and approaches to improving health care systems. The text emphasizes the importance of empowering PHC providers, ensuring access to quality care, and fostering alignment among global health actors.

UHC2030 recognises the critical importance of gender equality for the achievement of UHC, including protecting, respecting, and fulfilling women’s and girls’ rights, changing harmful gender norms and eliminating political, economic and social gender barriers that prevent all people, however they identify their gender, from enjoying their right to health. Across these Key Action Agenda, from the UHC Movement, we urge political leaders to re-commit to gender equality, redress gender power dynamics and ensure women’s and girls’ rights as foundational principles for UHC.

UHC2030 is a movement to accelerate progress toward UHC by providing a multi-stakeholder platform that promotes collaboration on health systems strengthening at the global and country levels. We advocate for increased political commitment, facilitate accountability and promote knowledge sharing to develop strong, sustainable and equitable health systems. UHC2030 has been tasked to support the UN HLM with a focus on “sharing evidence and good practices, challenges and lessons learned.”