

Country first!

The Joint Working Team on UHC

At WHO, the Sustainable Development Goals and the target of achieving universal health coverage by 2030 are firmly in our sights.

We have also set our own ambitious targets in the new General Programme of Work 2019-2024:

- 1 billion more people benefitting from universal health coverage;
- 1 billion more people better protected against health emergencies;
- 1 billion more people enjoying better health and well-being.

At WHO, we all work using our world-class technical know-how and skills to achieve these targets. As an organization, we must respond and adapt to the changing world around us and meet new challenges and changing environments head on.

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Don't accept the status quo. Don't believe that some problems can never be resolved.

Choose to believe instead that it's within your power to make real lasting change.”

Dr Tedros.



Our approach

JWT promotes bottom-up processes, owned by the country. Our approach facilitates flexibility and a more agile way of working. It emphasises cross-organizational collaboration to support each WHO Country Office to develop and implement UHC Country support plans in close collaboration with Member States.

This harnesses the power of our collective energy, technical skills and knowledge at global, regional and country levels to focus on implementing UHC in countries, where the impact is the greatest.



Our country-driven and bottom-up approach has three key elements:

1. Collaboration for UHC planning and implementation

Country ownership of UHC is fundamental and WHO country offices take the lead. The new approach facilitates collaboration at three levels of WHO - HQ, regional and country levels - and between clusters, departments and programmes to develop and support the practical implementation of UHC country support plans.

2. Streamlined Monitoring

At country level, the new approach promotes just one planning, one monitoring and one reporting system. This way of working results in far fewer transaction costs, and much less bureaucracy. It means more coordinated monitoring of results, greater WHO accountability and enhanced credibility.

3. Flexible resource allocation

The UHC multi-donor coordination committee is a group of donors who expressed desire to support WHO's efforts to implement UHC at country level. The donors on the committee are from EU, UK, France, Ireland, Japan and Luxembourg. All are committed to providing flexible funds for WHO to support UHC at country level. More donors are interested in supporting this approach.



Why would this interest you?

Country Offices will get:

- support from all levels of WHO to implement the UHC country support plan, according to your own specific needs
- one planning, one monitoring and one reporting system
- reduced fragmentation of efforts, less bureaucracy and fewer transaction costs
- access to flexible funding
- the ability to showcase the finest examples of your work to a global audience.

Regional Offices will get:

- support to regional offices to implement regional UHC action frameworks
- the ability to showcase the finest examples of your work to a global audience
- increased visibility and knowledge sharing within the region and globally
- additional and flexible funding allows for enhancing timely support to countries.

Head Quarters will get:

- the ability to apply knowledge and skills in more relevant and collaborative ways at country level
- the ability to turn principles into action for UHC
- the sharing of experience and demonstration of impact globally
- increased reputation as the lead convening agency in global health for UHC.

What is the Joint working team for universal health coverage?

The Joint working team for universal health coverage is the vehicle for the new 'United for health' approach. It is a virtual team of country office, regional office and HQ focal points assembled to aid UHC country support plans.

The team does the following:

- Draws on expertise from the entire organization bringing together focal points from all three levels of the Organization from various clusters, departments and programmes
- Looks out for opportunities to work together and reaches out to clusters, departments and programmes to talk and share and learn in order to support country level UHC implementation
- Promotes the cross-fertilization of experiences and lessons learned among countries, regions, WHO clusters and external partners and amplifies strong examples of work to a global audience.

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JWT for UHC is all about country ownership, and a more streamlined way for all of us working on UHC. We have so much to offer each other as colleagues, and we can find new ways to work together. It is urgent that we do so.”

Dr Naoko Yamamoto., Assistant Director General, WHO