**Framework for action on advancing universal health coverage (UHC) in the Eastern Mediterranean Region**

(Updated September 2016)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Strategic component</th>
<th>Actions for countries</th>
<th>Support from WHO and other development partners</th>
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| **Developing a vision and strategy for universal health coverage** | • Formulate a vision to transform the national health system towards UHC  
• Establish a multisectoral mechanism for UHC at the highest level  
• Institutionalize a mechanism for public involvement in the development and promotion of a UHC vision and strategy, e.g. through public representative assemblies and civil society.  
• Undertake an evidence-informed health system review for UHC to assess the status of and gaps in financial protection, service and population coverage  
• Develop a roadmap for health system strengthening to achieve UHC with short, medium and long-term goals  
• Strengthen reliable monitoring and evaluation system to track, evaluate and report UHC progress  
• Enhance public investment and public–private partnership for UHC  
• Promote implementation research for UHC | • Facilitate convening of stakeholders for dialogues on UHC vision and strategies  
• Share global experience, evidence and good practices in strengthening health systems towards UHC  
• Develop national capacities in health system strengthening and leadership for UHC  
• Provide technical support to strengthen national health information systems to effectively monitor and evaluate equitable progress towards UHC  
• Provide support for improving public investment, public–private partnership, resource mobilization and aid-effectiveness |
| **Improving health financing system performance and enhancing financial risk protection** | • Develop and implement an evidence-informed health financing strategy for UHC  
• Analyse health expenditure patterns and health financing arrangements using household surveys, health accounts and other diagnostic tools to identify gaps and underlying causes  
• Track the incidence of catastrophic health expenditures and impoverishment, differentiated along socioeconomic and demographic dimensions  
• Engage with national finance authorities to promote predictable public financing for health and ensure alignment with health sector requirements for UHC  
• Explore creative revenue raising mechanisms for health  
• Establish/expand prepayment arrangements, e.g. social health insurance and general government revenue arrangements, to limit out-of-pocket payments  
• Reduce fragmentation in pooling arrangements across different schemes to avoid negative consequences for equity and efficiency  
• Move from passive to strategic purchasing arrangements [by linking decisions on resource allocation to information on providers’ performance and health needs]  
• Unify national information systems for provider payment  
• Identify sources of health sector inefficiencies and ensure value for money | • Assist in development of health financing reform options for advancing UHC  
• Support the development of national health care financing strategies towards UHC  
• Support the "health budget dialogue" for UHC, covering issues of fiscal sustainability and public financial management  
• Build capacities on health expenditure surveys, health accounting, economic evaluation and other health financing system diagnostic tools  
• Develop guidance on prepayment arrangements including social health insurance  
• Facilitate exchange of knowledge and experience between policy-makers and financial managers on health financing reform  
• Build regional and national consensus on health financing reforms for UHC |
| **Expanding the coverage of needed health services** | • Improve quality, safety and continuity of care by expanding person-centred integrated health service delivery  
• Design and implement a service package of highest priority evidence-informed person- and population-based interventions  
• Improve health workforce availability, accessibility, quality and performance to meet current and future health service requirements  
• Ensure reliable access to, and regulation, quality, safety and affordability of essential medicines and health technologies, as part of the services package, appropriately employing health technology assessment (HTA)  
• Integrate emergency health care in service delivery to enhance health system resilience  
• Strengthen engagement with and regulation of for-profit and not-for-profit private sector for service provision in support of UHC | • Facilitate national planning for accelerating implementation of integrated quality health services, including progressive adoption of the family practice model  
• Develop guidance on designing, costing and implementing a service package of highest priority interventions  
• Support development and implementation of national strategic plans in the context of the regional strategic framework for health workforce development  
• Assist in the development of national policies and strategies for quality of care and patient safety  
• Support national efforts in improving access to essential medicines and health technologies, including promoting the use and institutionalization of HTA  
• Build capacity in assessing, regulating and partnering with the private sector |
| **Ensuring expansion and monitoring of population coverage** | • Prioritize expansion of service coverage and financial protection for vulnerable and informal groups as part of the Sustainable Development Goals  
• Collect data, disaggregated by socioeconomic and demographic factors, to monitor equity in progress towards UHC | • Share experience from countries on mechanisms to cover informal and vulnerable groups  
• Develop a framework for monitoring population coverage and UHC |

Note: Developed in consultation with Member States, expert groups and partners.

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