

Framework for action on advancing universal health coverage (UHC) in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (Updated September 2016)

| Strategic component | Actions for countries | Support from WHO and other development partners |
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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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