



EVERY WOMAN  
EVERY CHILD

## ***Every Woman Every Child* Toolkit Universal Health Coverage Day 2015**

December 12<sup>th</sup> is Universal Health Coverage Day, marking the third anniversary of a United Nations resolution, which endorsed universal health coverage as a pillar of sustainable development and global security.

Universal Health Coverage is also highlighted in the Sustainable Development Goals under Goal 3, which calls for ensuring health lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages.

### **TOP-LINE MESSAGES**

Universal health coverage is essential in ensuring the health and well-being of everybody, especially those most vulnerable, especially women, children and adolescents.

Health care needs to be accessible, affordable and available for everyone, everywhere.

Universal health coverage—including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines—is key in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Universal health coverage is attainable and goes hand in hand with health systems strengthening and resilience, **a key action** area of the [\*Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health\*](#).

The *Global Strategy* offers a roadmap for ending all preventable deaths of women, children and adolescents and ensuring their well-being by 2030, and calls for quality and affordable health care for all, and Universal health coverage is central to achieving its full implementation.

Governments have to lead in strengthening the building blocks of health systems and must play an active role in ensuring that the entire population has access to healthcare.

- ▶ Over 100 low and middle income countries, three-quarters of the world's population, have taken steps to deliver on universal health coverage.

Health financing will be critical in helping countries achieve universal health care coverage, and innovative financing mechanisms like the Global Financing Facility in support of *Every Woman Every Child* will be a key platform for achieving UHC.



## Benefits of implementing UHC

- UHC maintains and improves health. Good health allows children to learn and adults to earn. This helps people escape from poverty and provides the basis for long-term economic development.
- Financial risk protection in health prevents people from being pushed into poverty because unexpected illness requires them to use up their life savings, sell assets, or borrow – destroying their futures and impacting the their families.

## KEY FACTS

- [According to the World Health Organization \(WHO\) and the World Bank Group](#), 400 million people do not have access to essential health services.
- About 6% of the population in low- and middle-income countries are tipped into or pushed further into extreme poverty because of out-of-pocket health spending.
- About 150 million of the people who do use health services are subjected to financial catastrophe annually, and 100 million are pushed below the poverty line as a result of paying for the services they receive.
- In the next twenty years, 40-50 million new health care workers will need to be trained and deployed to meet the need.
- Globally, two-thirds (38 million) of 56 million annual deaths are still not registered. Civil registration and vital statistics are crucial to gauge coverage needs.
- As we transition to a post-2015 development era, we must act on these findings, or the world's poor risk being left behind.
- People-centered and integrated health services are critical for reaching universal health coverage.
- The goal of universal health coverage is to ensure that all people obtain the health services they need without suffering financial hardship when paying for them. This requires:
  - ▷ Strong, efficient, well-run health system;
  - ▷ Systems for financing health services;
  - ▷ Access to essential medicines and technologies;
  - ▷ Sufficient capacity of well-trained, motivated health workers.

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- WHO and the World Bank Group [recommend](#) that countries pursuing universal health coverage should aim to achieve a minimum of 80% population coverage of essential health services, and that everyone everywhere should be protected from catastrophic and impoverishing health payments.
  - For much of the 20th century, universal health coverage was limited to a few high-income countries, but in the past two decades, a number of lower- and middle-income countries have successfully embraced reforms to make quality health care universally available.
  - Countries as diverse as Brazil, Ghana, Mexico, Rwanda, Turkey and Thailand have made tremendous progress toward universal health coverage in recent years.

### **Strong health systems for UHC**

- Moving towards UHC requires strengthening health systems in many countries.
- An important component of UHC is health financing where attention needs to be paid to raising sufficient funds, minimizing out of pocket payments through prepayment and pooling, and using available funds efficiently and equitably.
- Countries must also have a health workforce that can support an affordable, efficient, well-run health system that meets priority health needs through quality people-centered integrated care.
- Good governance, sound systems of procurement and supply of medicines and health technologies and well-functioning health information systems are other critical elements.
- UHC emphasizes not only what services are covered, but also how they are covered through focusing on people-centered health care and integration of care.



## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

### **Tweets:**

Proper healthcare should not be a privilege, but a basic human right. Demand [#HealthForAll](#) <http://bit.ly/12s6zke> @UHC\_Day, 12/12 [#EWECisME](#)

Universal [#healthcoverage](#) = single most powerful concept [#publichealth](#) has to offer. — Dr. Margaret Chan @WHO [#HealthForAll](#) [#EWECisME](#)

Gvts MUST accelerate reforms to ensure every1 everywhere can access quality health services w/o falling into poverty [#HealthForAll](#) [#EWECisME](#)

Gvts can & MUST play an active role in ensuring entire pop has access to quality [#healthcare](#). @UHC\_Day, DEC 12 [#HealthForAll](#) [#EWECisME](#)

Goal 3 of [#SDGs](#): Ensure healthy lives & promote well-being for all at all ages. Together, we can make this a reality [#HealthForAll](#) [#EWECisME](#)

Updated @UnfEWEC Global Strategy discusses need for quality, affordable [#HealthForAll](#). @UHC\_Day, 12/12 <http://bit.ly/1LiW9sp> [#EWECisME](#)

Good health allows children to learn & adults to earn = eliminate poverty & improve global economies. @UHC\_Day 12/12 [#HealthForAll](#) [#EWECisME](#)

400M pple don't have access to essential health services b/c health expenses. We must demand [#HealthForAll](#) <http://bit.ly/1C1vuqo> [#EWECisME](#)

6% of pple in low/middle-income countries live in extreme poverty b/c health expenses. [#HealthForAll](#) NOW. <http://bit.ly/1C1vuqo> [#EWECisME](#)

FACT: Nobody should go bankrupt when they get sick. Demand [#HealthForAll](#) NOW. @UHC\_Day, DEC 12 <http://bit.ly/12s6zke> [#EWECisME](#)

No 1 model to achieve [#HealthForAll](#) — steps can be taken in diff ways. Each country must dvlp its own path <http://bit.ly/1NbKqcW> [#EWECisME](#)

### **Facebook:**

Access to quality health care services shouldn't be a privilege for a few, but a basic [#humanright](#) for ALL. Nobody should have to worry about going bankrupt because they get sick. Demand [#HealthForAll](#) today.

Universal Health Coverage Day, 12/12/15 — <http://healthforall.org>