



Private Sector contributions towards Universal Health Coverage

UHC2030 Private Sector Constituency Statement

INTRODUCTION

This statement highlights how the private sector can effectively contribute to UHC and work together with other stakeholders to achieve better health and well-being for all people at all ages.

At least half the world's population still lacks access to essential health services, and almost 100 million people are pushed into extreme poverty each year by the costs of essential healthcare.

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) means that all individuals and communities have access to quality essential health services without risk of financial hardship. As part of the broad and ambitious agenda

for a safer, fairer and healthier world by 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include a specific goal to ensure healthy lives and well-being for all people at all ages, and a specific target to achieve UHC.

The private sector is well-positioned to contribute to the UHC effort and already provides health products and services for many millions of people and communities globally. Most countries have mixed (public and private) health systems. The for-profit private sector offers a diverse range of health and related products, services, and innovation. It provides over 60% of health services in some countries.

What do we mean by 'the private sector'?

The private sector includes all health providers not owned or directly controlled by government. It is very diverse and includes for-profit and not-for-profit, formal and informal, and domestic and foreign entities. This statement focuses on the **for-profit private sector directly involved in health products and services** (and not, for example, other business sectors that may influence public health).

OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES

This statement builds on the SDGs, UHC2030 Global Compact, and the 'Key Asks from the UHC Movement', which all promote multi-stakeholder partnership. The five key principles for collective action in the UHC2030 Global Compact are endorsed by all members of UHC2030 and provide a basis for the following principles to guide collaboration that includes the private sector.

1 Leaving no one behind

A commitment to equity, non-discrimination and a rights-based approach. Health is a fundamental human right. All partners should promote the core elements of UHC (access, quality and financial protection) for all people

2 Transparency and accountability for results

All partners should act responsibly, adhere to established codes of conduct, operate transparently within relevant regulatory and legal frameworks, and recognise their accountability to people and communities.

3 Evidence-based national health strategies and leadership

All partners should ensure their efforts are evidence-based and align with national priorities and policies, and acknowledge and support the roles of government stewardship and public financing in ensuring availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of service delivery across both public and private sectors.

4 Making health everybody's business

The engagement of citizens, communities, civil society and the private sector. The private sector has an important role, with the greatest contributions where there are common values and incentives for both business and UHC goals.

5 International cooperation based on mutual learning across countries

Mutual learning should be fostered among private sector partners (for example, through the UHC2030 Private Sector Constituency), and with other stakeholders, on how best to support progress towards UHC.

PRIVATE SECTOR CONTRIBUTION

To build on and maximize the private sector's existing contributions to UHC, the UHC2030 Private Sector Constituency will promote both the principles in this statement and enhanced action across the private sector to:

1

Offer quality products and services that consider the needs of all people including poor and marginalised populations, and make these affordable, accessible and sustainable

The private sector is a significant provider of products and services in most countries. This core offering of demand-driven products and services is its greatest contribution to UHC.

2

Incorporate UHC principles, including to leave no one behind, in core business models and objectives

This may include, for example, looking beyond immediate results and taking a long-term approach to business goals and impact, consistent with supporting development of resilient and sustainable health systems. The same principles also apply to any philanthropic or charitable activities.

3

Develop, test and scale up innovative business models that align with UHC goals

Innovation can happen on many levels, especially in approaches that help to drive greater and more equitable access, quality and sustainability of health product and service offerings.

4

Create, adapt, apply and scale up innovations

Private sector innovation is an engine for new products, techniques, and insights that can improve healthcare, strengthen health systems, and increase efficiencies. Digital health can be game changing for health system transformation. New technologies and approaches can help countries to 'leapfrog' along health and development pathways and rapidly accelerate progress towards UHC.

5

Help strengthen the health workforce, responding to local context, priorities and needs

The private sector makes important contributions to training health workers (providing and supporting both pre-service training and continuing education), to knowledge transfer that strengthens health workforce capacities, to workforce data and evidence, and as a major employer of health workers.

6

Contribute to efforts to raise the finance available for UHC

Achieved through, for example: contributing to innovative finance models and tools, engaging constructively in dialogue on corporate taxation, and supporting governments to articulate the business case for investing in health and UHC.

7

Engage in, champion and build capacities for relevant policy dialogue and partnerships with government and other stakeholders

This is fundamental for identifying shared objectives and developing collaborations for shared outcomes. It is also important for feedback on the effectiveness of existing and proposed policies and regulatory regimes.

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

To create an enabling environment for private sector contributions towards UHC, governments (primarily) and other UHC stakeholders should ensure the following:

1 Processes for structured and meaningful engagement of all partners

Government commitment to dialogue with all actors, including the private sector, is the basis to 'move together' on UHC and develop joint action that responds to the health needs of all people.

2 National health strategies and plans that set clear, evidence-based policy objectives

To guide the actions of all health stakeholders, strategies and plans should reflect the roles and contributions of different actors including the private sector.

3 Robust regulatory and legal system

Government stewardship of laws, standards, quality control and redress mechanisms that ensure accountability and safeguard UHC goals of access, quality, equity and financial protection, and help facilitate private sector contributions within an environment that fosters innovation, entrepreneurship and competition.

4 More and better investment in health, especially to strengthen health systems

Governments should mobilise adequate and sustainable public financing for health systems, especially for primary health care, as the foundation for all stakeholders' contributions to UHC.

5 Appropriate capacity and procedures to work with non-state actors

Health authorities must build competencies and skills to manage complex relationships transparently and effectively. Procurement and contracting capacities that ensure fairness and transparency are especially important.

6 Knowledge and evidence on 'what works' for health systems and UHC

To inform collective efforts to strengthen health systems, including contributions of the private sector, governments and partners should support and invest in local and national research systems for analysis and evaluation of programmes, policies and innovations.

NEXT STEPS: MOVING TOGETHER FOR UHC

The Key Asks from the UHC Movement for the United Nations High-Level Meeting on UHC include a call to engage the whole of society for a healthier world.

The UHC2030 Private Sector Constituency developed this statement as a contribution to multi-stakeholder efforts towards UHC. It reflects inputs from other UHC2030 partners such as civil society, governments and international organisations, and sets out principles, values and actions that the Private Sector Constituency will actively champion.

The statement provides a basis for further dialogue with all UHC stakeholders to promote mutual understanding, a shared vision, and collaborative action for how the private sector can most effectively contribute to UHC.

UHC2030 is the movement to accelerate progress towards UHC by providing a multi-stakeholder platform that promotes collaboration on health systems strengthening at the global and country levels.

The UHC2030 Private Sector Constituency, hosted by the World Economic Forum, convenes private sector actors and fosters dialogue and collaboration across the private sector and with other UHC2030 partners, constituencies and networks. Members are for-profit entities within the health value chain such as service providers, health insurers, and manufacturers and distributors of medicines, health products and innovative technologies.