On the road to the UN High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UHC HLM)

Virtual information session on the UHC Action Agenda

Monday, 16 January 2023

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UHC2030 Core Team

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Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Video on UHC HLM
3. State of UHC Commitment Review key findings
4. Draft Action Agenda from the UHC Movement
5. Engaging in the UHC HLM process
6. Q&A

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A message from UHC2030 Steering Committee Co-Chairs and Political Advisors

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State of UHC Commitment

Update for UN HLM 2023

Dr. Akihito Watabe, Program Manager
UHC2030 Core Team

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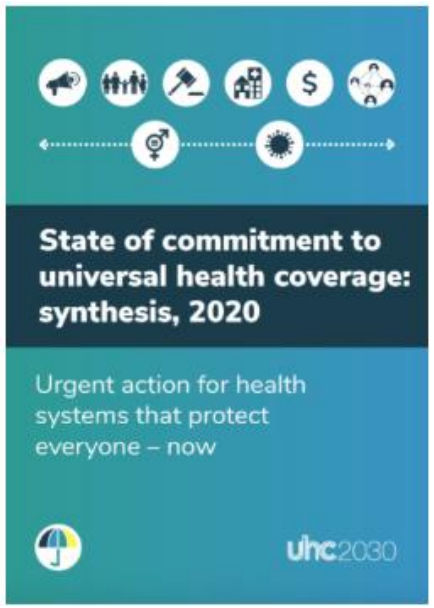
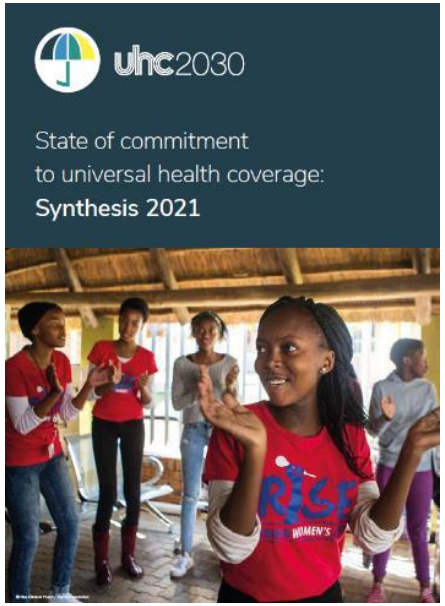
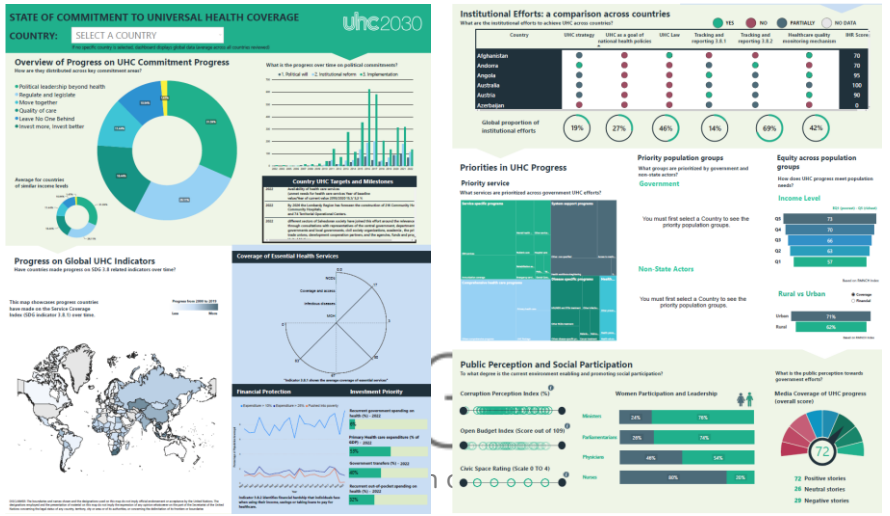
What is the State of UHC Commitment Review?







Countries acting on their commitments to UHC?

- Political, country-focused and action-oriented tool - complement the Global UHC monitoring report.
- Supports national accountability and advocacy processes to ensure political leaders are held accountable for their commitments.
- The review consists of 2 major products:
  - 139 country profiles (currently 72% of UN member states profiles are available)
  - Synthesis reports (available in 2020 & 2021) + Key findings from the latest review available

8 UHC Commitment Areas

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Methodology/Conceptual framework

Continuum of UHC Commitments in the policy process

Outcome

Action

Implementation Plan

Operational Commitment

Institutional Reform

Institutional Commitment

Political Will

Rhetorical Commitment

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Methodology/Conceptual framework

Multiple information sources

Voluntary National Review Reports

National Health Policies and Strategies

CSEM Country Consultations

VNR Shadow Reports

Non-state Actors

Government Actors

Document Reviews

Media Analysis

Quantitative Global Repositories

Surveys

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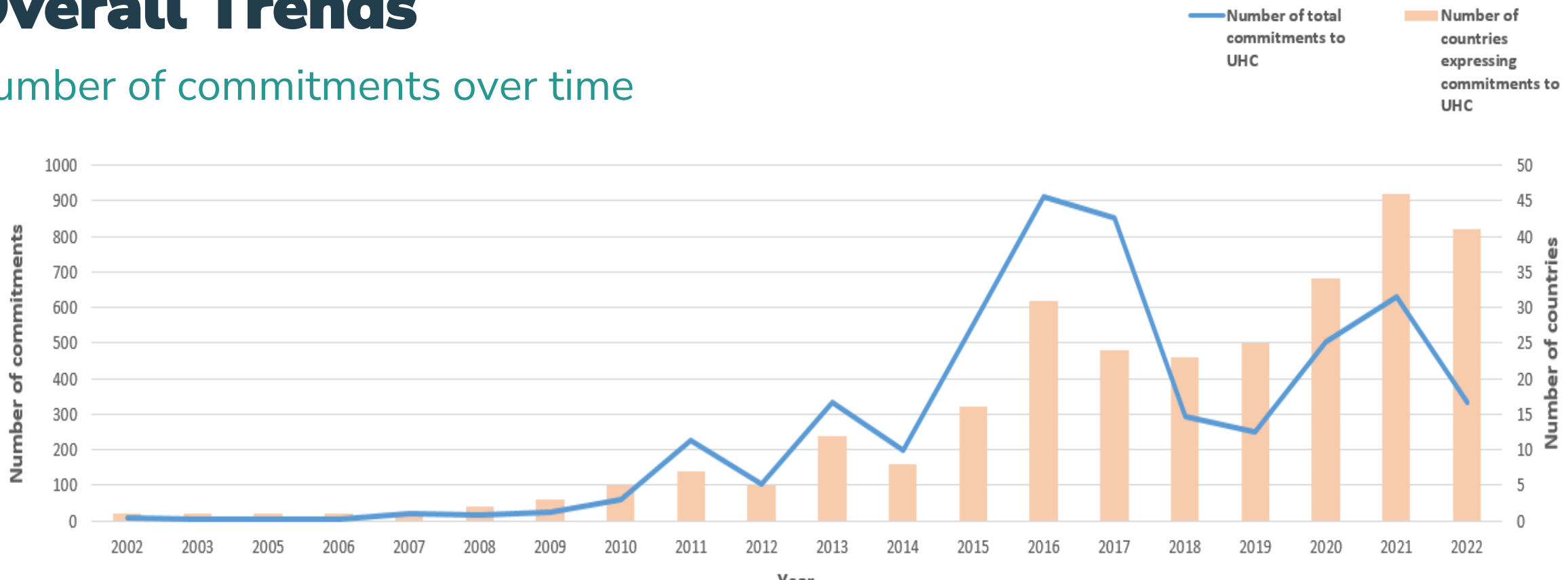
Overall Trends

Number of commitments over time



- Following the 2019 UN High-level meeting on UHC, country commitments to UHC (per year) almost doubled between 2019 and 2021.
- In 2022, this positive trend stagnated and even reversed in some countries, setting UHC targets for 2030 further off track.

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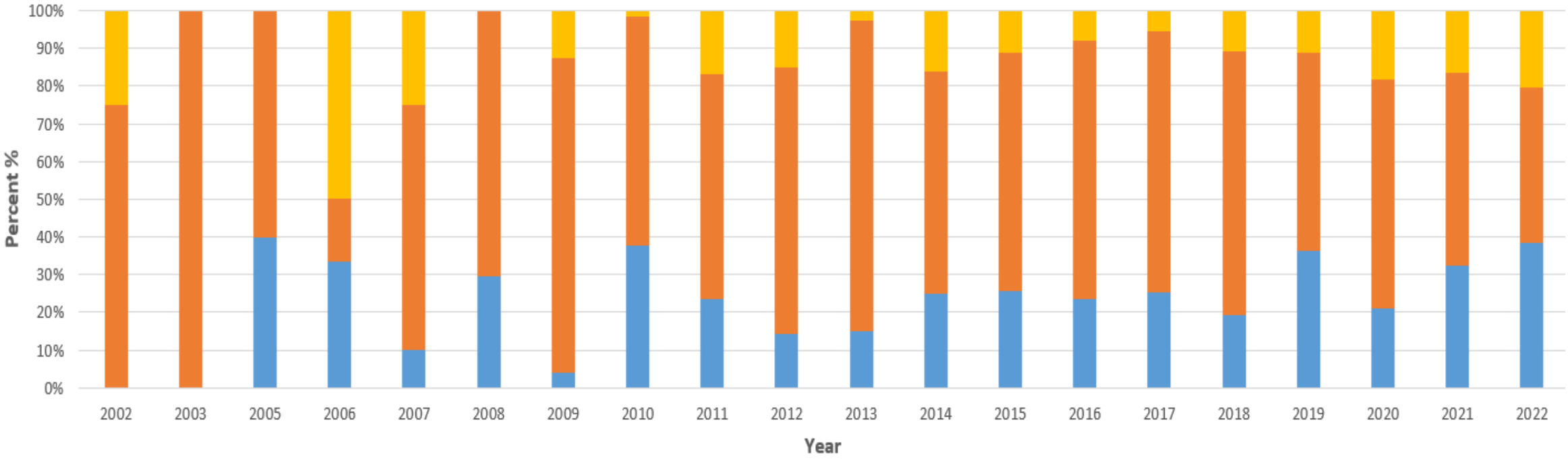
Figure 1. Distribution of commitments over years; Ref. Data: State of UHC Commitment review 2021, 2022 (policy review across 139 countries)

Overall Trends

Distribution of commitments over time



- The majority of UHC Commitments were in the institutional reform phase, followed by the implementation planning phase, and this trend is seen across the UHC commitment areas.

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Figure 2. Number of commitments over years; Ref. Data: State of UHC Commitment review 2021, 2022 (policy review across 139 countries)

Overall Trends

Distribution of UHC Commitments across the 3 dimensions of UHC

- Countries' UHC commitments do not address all three dimensions of UHC: (1) service coverage; (2) population coverage; and (3) financial protection.
- Most commitments are focused on (1) service coverage and (2) population coverage, and on average, there was a lack of commitments and clear targets concerning (3) the financial protection dimension.

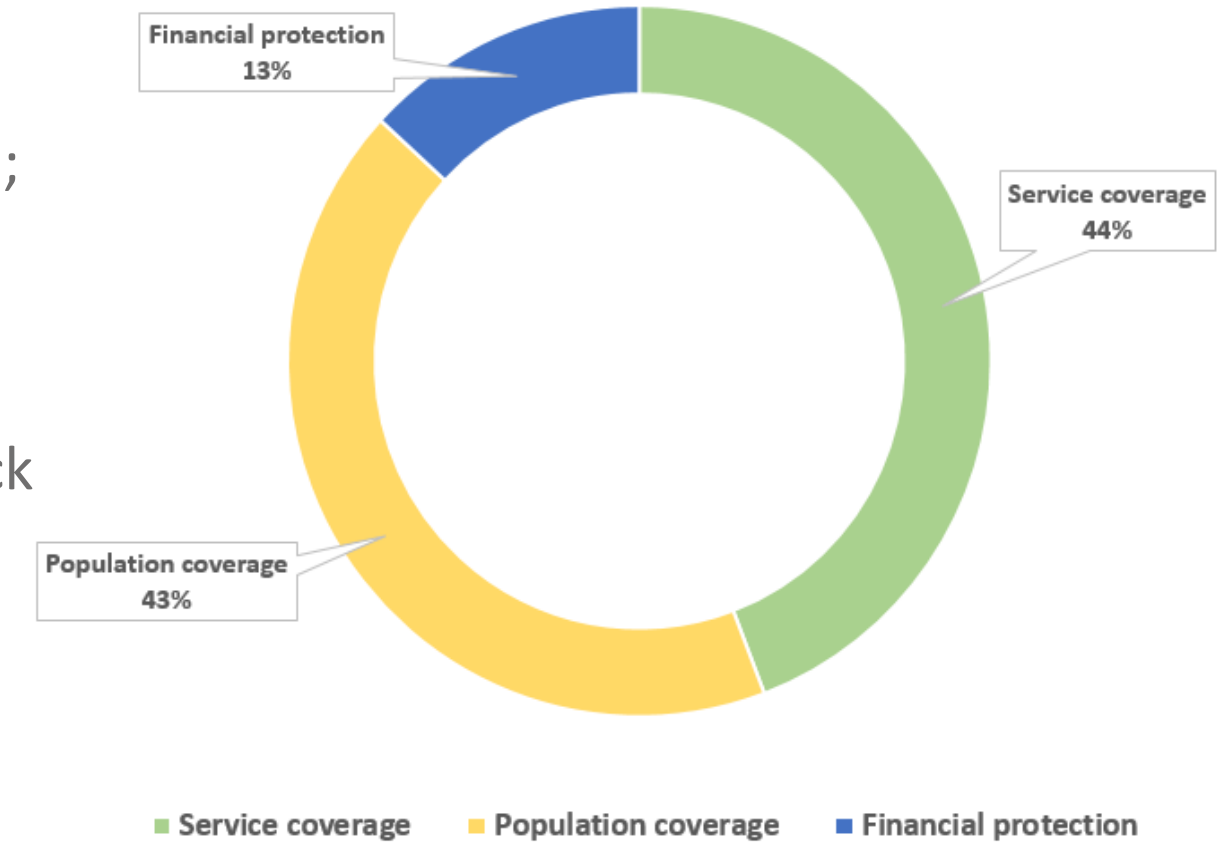

Figure 3. Distribution of commitments related to any of 3 dimensions of UHC; Ref data: State of UHC Commitment review 2021, 2022 (policy document review across 139 countries)

Overall Trends

Distribution of UHC Commitments by type of health programs and intervention

- Countries continue to rely on fragmented disease and service-specific programs and interventions instead of operationalizing comprehensive UHC commitments.

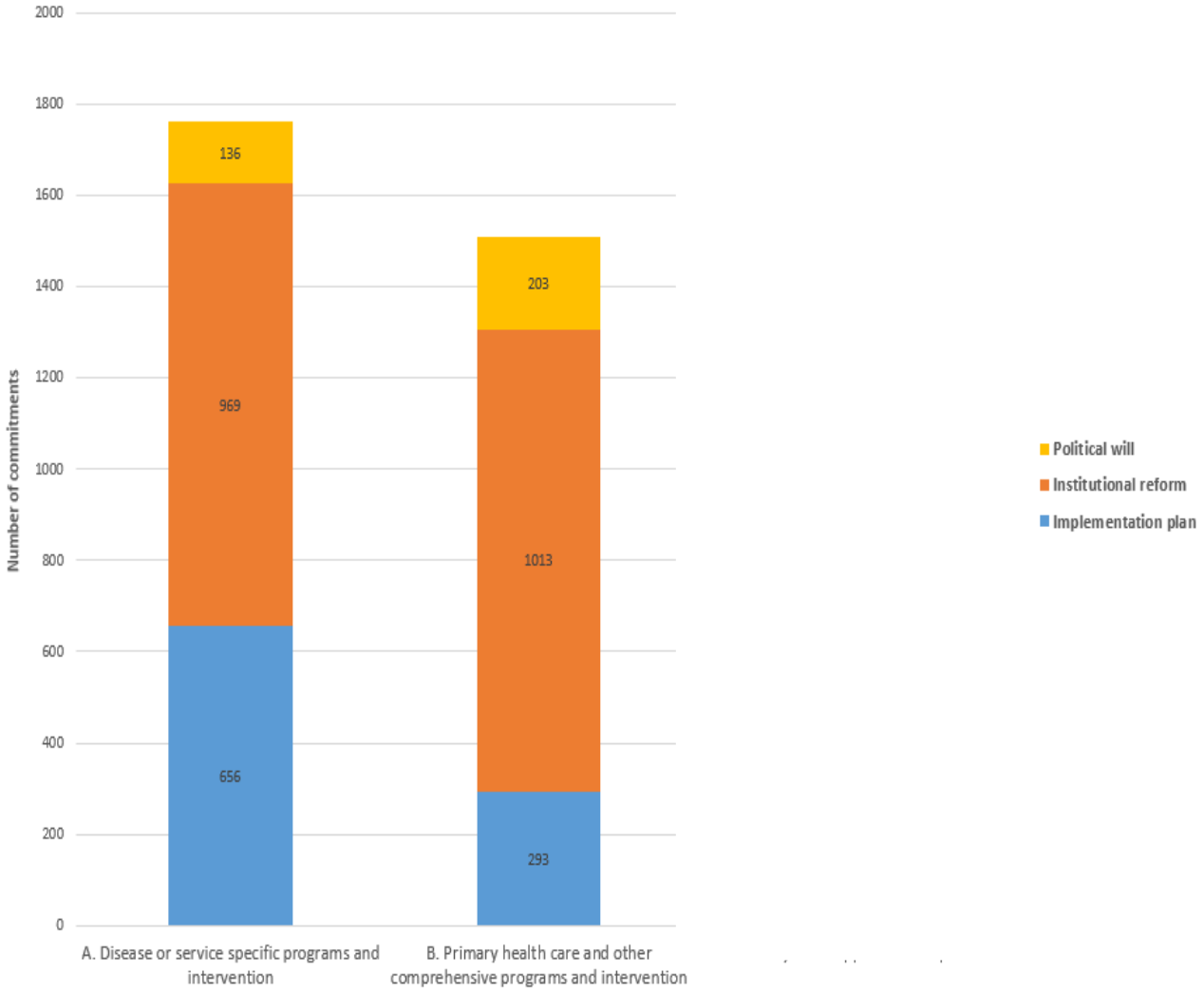

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Figure 5. Distribution of commitments across different health programs; Ref. Data: State of UHC Commitment review 2021, 2022 (policy document review across 139 countries)

Overall Trends

Key findings from 8 Commitment areas (1-4):

Ensure Political Leadership Beyond Health

The majority of countries recognize UHC as a goal, however there is a lack of concrete operational steps towards achieving UHC.

Leave No One Behind

Vulnerable individuals and groups continue to face financial barriers to accessing the health services and commodities they need.

Regulate and Legislate

More than half of countries have adopted legislation to guarantee equitable access to quality and affordable healthcare and protect against financial hardship through a UHC law, and about 70% of countries have used UHC as a goal for their health plans.

Uphold Quality of Care

Discrimination against patients and limited quality and respectful healthcare services remain a widespread challenge to maintaining their dignity, privacy and confidentiality.

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Overall Trends

Key findings from 8 Commitment areas (5-8):

Invest More, Invest Better

Despite continued increases in overall health expenditure in 2020 due to COVID-19 response, governments' current investment commitments and public spending for health are inadequate.

Move Together

A limited number of countries have a formal and effective accountability mechanism for UHC, with inadequate engagement of non-state actors.

Gender Equality

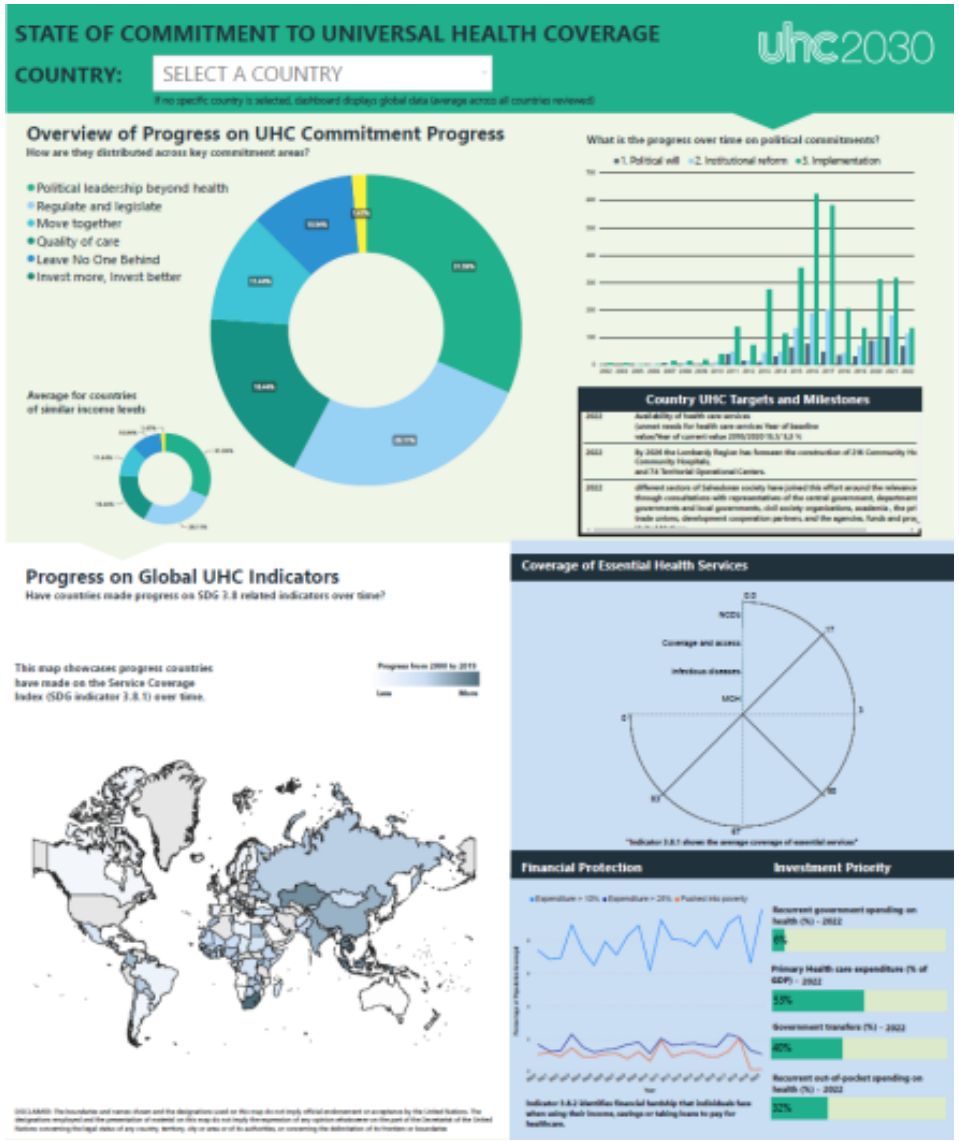
Despite women being the majority of the health workforce, there is a lack of commitment towards increasing women's representation in health and political leadership.

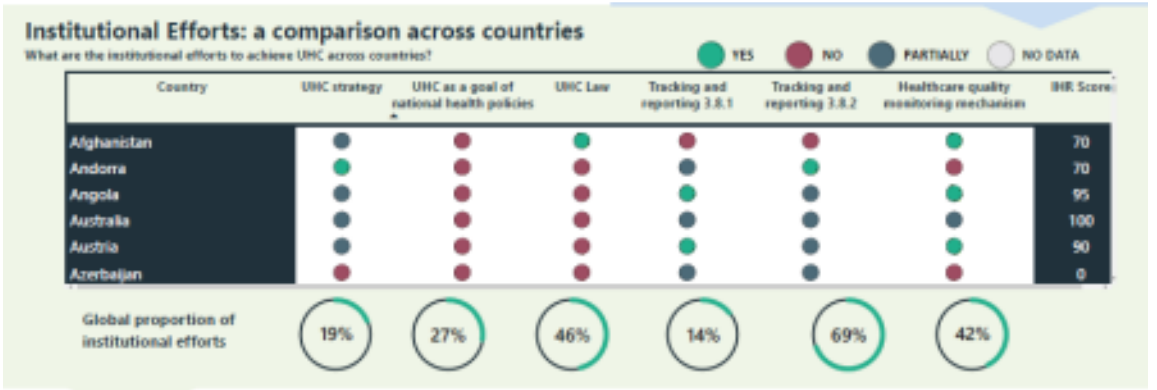
Emergency preparedness

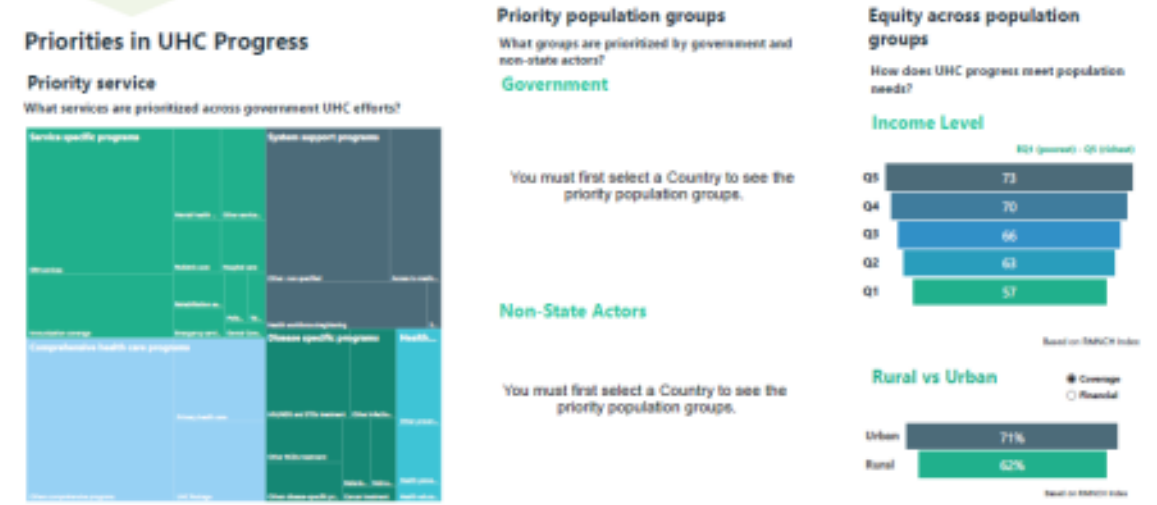
The pandemic exacerbated inequities and disrupted the provision of essential health services.

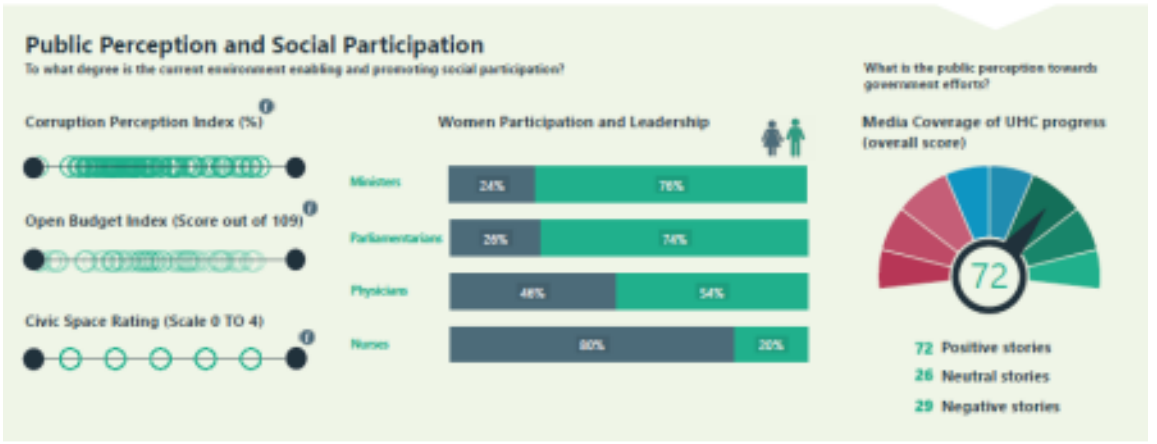
Country Profiles

New progress dashboard









https://www.uhc2030.org/what-we-do/knowledge-and-networks/uhc-data-portal/

Google: UHC Data Portal

Draft Action Agenda from the UHC Movement

Overview

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UN HLM Task Force on UHC

Inclusive process to develop the draft UHC Action Agenda

- Multi-stakeholder Task Force, which brings together 20 representatives from UHC2030 constituencies and beyond.
- Building on the 2019 Key Asks and 2019 Political Declaration commitment areas on UHC, the Action Agenda is based on recent research and latest data, including the State of UHC Commitment Review.
- The Action Agenda will be presented to the President of the General Assembly to inform the 2023 UHC political declaration negotiation.

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Our Speakers Today

5 members of the Task Force

- **Dr Dale Huntington,** Senior Director, Health Care Systems, Global Policy, Johnson & Johnson [Private Sector Constituency]
- **Eliana Monteforte,** Director, Special Projects, Global Health Council [Advisory Group, CSEM]
- **Dr Emmanuel Ankrah Odame,** Former Director of Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation of the Ministry of Health, Ghana
- **Dr Pamela Cipriano,** President, International Council of Nurses
- **Susan Brown,** Director, Global Policy and Advocacy, Women in Global Health

Draft UHC Action Agenda

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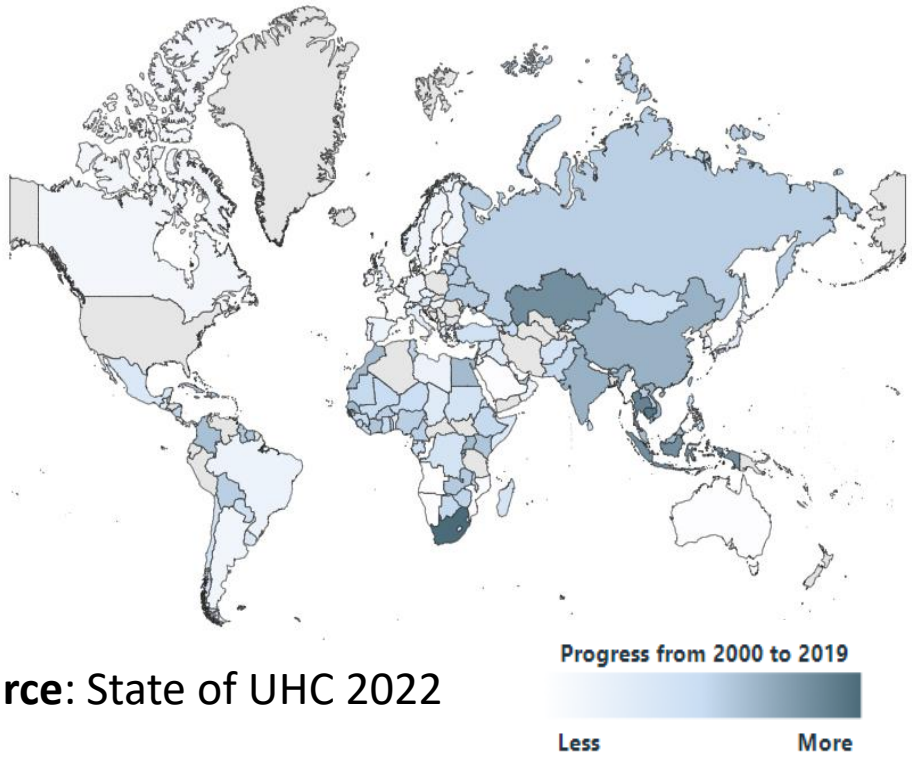
2023 - Time for Action

Progress on Service Coverage Index



Source: State of UHC 2022

A significant proportion of the world's population still lacks access to essential health services, rendering the right to the highest attainable standard of health unattainable for far too many people.

- Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, progress on UHC was insufficient. State of UHC 2022 shows that little progress has been made in service coverage over time, and that financial protection has fallen.
- However, the pandemic experience shows that UHC and health security are two important and intertwined goals.
- **Building on the 2019 political commitments and 8 commitment areas on universal health coverage, world leaders have a unique opportunity to reinvigorate progress towards delivering health for all**.

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8 Action Areas

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Action Area 1: Champion Political leadership for UHC

Political leaders have experienced how important UHC is to their societies and economies, given their experiences during the pandemic and the ongoing impact of conflicts and the climate crisis. Leadership—including with civil society and partners across health systems—is more crucial than ever to embed UHC as a goal in national health policy frameworks.

Key Actions Proposed:

- Provide strategic leadership at the highest political level and a whole-of-government approach to champion UHC as a national political priority.
- Strengthen the essential health benefits package that prioritizes primary health care as a foundation crucial for UHC and health security.
- Encourage local and community leadership and support civil society and private sector's mobilization for UHC.

Action Area 2: Leave No One Behind

Health is enshrined as one of the fundamental rights of every human being and it is a duty of governments to protect, promote and fulfil the right to health. Countries will also benefit economically and socially by investing in health because UHC makes a significant contribution to reducing poverty and promoting equity and social cohesion.

Key Actions Proposed:

- Ensure all national health policy frameworks support vulnerable and disadvantaged groups who are furthest behind and reflect their priorities.
- Improve policy design to leave no one behind.
- Collect the best available knowledge and information to design policy and understand progress on UHC to leave no one behind.

Action Area 3: Adopt Enabling Laws and Regulations

Strengthening implementation towards UHC is critical and parliamentarians and other policymakers have a key role to play. Policies, laws, and regulations that integrate UHC and health security and create an enabling environment for the use of health technologies and innovations, will strengthen future economic and social resilience.

Key Actions Proposed:

- Create enabling legislative frameworks.
- Implement policies, laws and regulations on the essential health benefits package, financial protection, primary health care and integrated services that support UHC and health security.
- Adopt policies, laws and regulations that strengthen ecosystems for healthcare technology and innovation and accelerate UHC.

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Action Area 4: Strengthen the Health and Care Workforce to Deliver Quality Health Care

The health and care workforce are essential to ensuring healthy people, societies, and economies, and play a crucial role during emergencies, including pandemics, conflicts, natural disasters, and other crises. In all situations, women play a prominent role, delivering most of the frontline essential health and care services. Achieving UHC by 2030 relies on a strong, safeguarded, and protected health workforce delivering quality health and care services.

Key Actions Proposed:

- Recognize and resource the health and care workforce as the foundation of future resilience.
- Retain, expand, and protect the health and care workforce.
- Innovate to improve health and care quality.

Action Area 5: Invest more, Invest Better

Expanding UHC must be prioritized in health budgets, broader national plans, and national financing strategies, and by aligning funding from international partners with national health priorities. Despite the current challenging economic outlook and macro-fiscal context, countries must continue their efforts to expand domestic public finances to invest more and better in their own health systems.

Key Actions Proposed:

- Increase and protect domestic government health spending for resilient people, societies, and economies.
- Move boldly towards primary health care.
- Strengthen financial protection.

Action Area 6: Move Together towards UHC

Governments alone cannot achieve UHC, and inclusive opportunities should exist for stakeholders to participate in developing, reviewing, and implementing national health policy frameworks, financial protection strategies and essential health benefits packages. The systematic participation and coordination of all stakeholders makes the health system more transparent and accountable, underpins the social contract between a state and its nation, and fosters trust, which can be leveraged in the context of an emergency.

Key Actions Proposed:

- Champion participatory and inclusive governance.
- Institutionalise mechanisms for inclusive health governance.
- Promote trust and transparency by strengthening accountability in health governance.

Action Area 7: Guarantee Gender Equality

Gender equality is critical to achieving the ambitions of UHC and leaving no one behind. Equal rights and equal access to services drive health, wellbeing, and socio-economic development across the life course. Proactively addressing gender inequality in health strategies, policies, financing, programmes, and service design will underpin UHC and future health security.

Key Actions Proposed:

- Guarantee gender equality in health decision making at all levels, value and appropriately remunerate the role women play in the health workforce, including their role in unpaid care.
- Address gender inequalities and discrimination in health services.
- Collect the best available knowledge and information to design policy and understand progress on gender priorities.

Action Area 8: Connect UHC and Health Security

UHC and health security are two intertwined goals that have a strong relationship within the health system in every country. It is imperative to integrate the lessons from emergencies and crises, including the lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic. Leaders must act now to design and resource integrated approaches that support both UHC and health security within wider efforts to build equitable and resilient health systems.

Key Actions Proposed:

- Champion resilience through integrated approaches that connect UHC to health security.
- Protect people against interruptions in essential health services during emergencies.
- Prioritise implementation of essential integrated services, starting with primary health care.

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Engaging in the UHC HLM process

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Action Agenda Online Consultation

6 January – 6 February 2023

- The consultation is available in English, French and Spanish.
- The consultation will inform the final Action Agenda from the UHC Movement, which will be used to inform the draft Political Declaration.

https://www.uhc2030.org/un-hlm-2023/action-agenda/

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Multi-stakeholder Hearing

Hosted by the President of the General Assembly

- April 2023 (date TBC)
- The summary report from the hearing constitutes an official input for the drafting the Political Declaration on UHC.
- Intergovernmental negotiations on the Political Declaration on UHC will start shortly after the hearing and should close by the end of July 2023.

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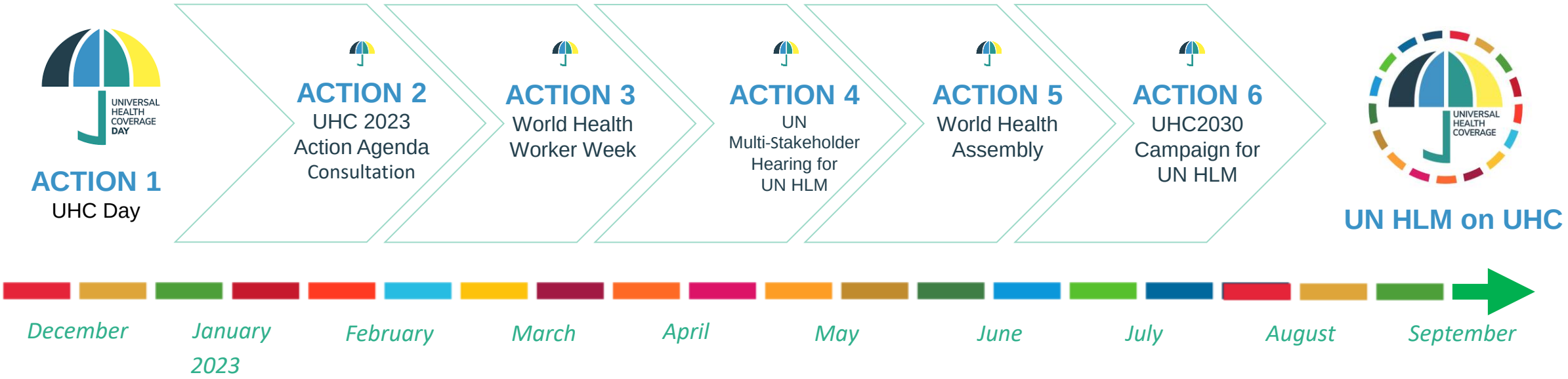
Frequently asked questions regarding the UN HLM
https://www.uhc2030.org/un-hlm-2023/un-hlm-faqs/

Getting ready for the 2023 UN High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage



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Q&A

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