

UHC2030ⁱ [Private Sector Constituency / Multi-stakeholder] Statement on Private Sector contributions towards Universal Health Coverage

Introduction

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** because of out-of-pocket health expenses.

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) means that all individuals and communities have access to quality essential health services without risk of financial hardship. Achieving 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 for all, is an important target within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which set out a broad and ambitious agenda for a safer, fairer and healthier world by 2030.

The private sector is well-positioned to contribute to UHC efforts and already provides better health 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.

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. It builds on the SDGs, UHC2030 Global Compact, and 'Key asks from the UHC movement' for the UN High-Level Meeting on UHC, which all recognise the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships in achieving UHC.

Overarching principles

The UHC2030 Global Compact, as endorsed by all members of UHC2030, includes five key principles to guide collective action towards UHC. Elements that are particularly relevant for all stakeholders working together with the private sector include:

- 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 and communities.
- 2. Transparency and accountability for results –**
All partners should act responsibly, adhere to established codes of conduct, and operate transparently within relevant regulatory and legal frameworks.
- 3. Evidence-based national health strategies and leadership –**
Government stewardship to ensure availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of service delivery. All partners should ensure their efforts are evidence-based and align with national priorities and policies.
- 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.

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 –**
This 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 promote and safeguard UHC goals of access, quality, and equity, 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.

Private sector contribution to UHC

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. Continue to offer high-quality products and services, and make these affordable, accessible and sustainable –**
The private sector is a significant provider of products and services in most countries. This core business offering is its greatest contribution to UHC.
- 2. Incorporate UHC principles, including to leave no one behind, in core business models and objectives and in any philanthropic activities –**
This may include 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.
- 3. Develop, test and scale up innovative business models –**
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 –

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

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.

[PLACEHOLDER – CLOSING TEXT BOX (constituency, what commitment represents, next steps)]

UHC2030’s Private Sector Constituency is the convening platform for private sector entities wishing to collaborate and exchange knowledge and experience on UHC. The constituency aims to build trust, develop mutual understanding of UHC and the role of the private sector, and motivate private sector thought leadership, interest and commitment towards UHC goals.

ⁱ UHC2030 is the movement for accelerating equitable and sustainable progress towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC). It provides a multi-stakeholder platform to enhance international coordination and enabling environments at all levels to strengthen national health systems and achieve UHC.