

Regional meeting on accelerating progress towards universal health coverage: global experiences and lessons for the Eastern Mediterranean Region

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“Inequities in health represent the most important challenges facing many countries of the Region. The confrontation of these challenges demands that health systems develop a clear vision and strategies to achieve universal coverage and equitable health financing policies.”

A regional meeting on accelerating progress towards universal health coverage: clear vision and strategies to achieve universal coverage and equitable health financing policies. global experiences and lessons for the Eastern Mediterranean Region will be held by the WHO Regional Office in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 5 to 7 December 2013 at Al Bustan Rotana hotel. The purpose of this Conference is to share international experiences with regional policy- and decision-makers to assist them in devising a clear vision for health system reform to achieve the goal of universal health coverage.

The specific objectives of the meeting are to:

- share evidence and exchange experience of countries from within and outside the Region about what has worked and what has not in addressing challenges related to the collection, pooling and purchasing functions of health financing
- document and discuss countries’ experiences in addressing challenges related to other health system components, in particular the health workforce, service provision and health technologies
- support countries, at their various levels of socioeconomic development, to formulate a vision and a roadmap, to address health system challenges to move towards universal health coverage
- promote multisectoral collaboration and foster partnerships between national and international stakeholders to support countries of the Region to move towards universal health coverage and sustain prior achievements.

It will be attended by between 100 and 150 policy- and decision-makers and health system experts from ministries of health, finance, economy, planning and development, in addition to academics and representatives of the World Bank, UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Development Programme, and donor agencies active in supporting health system strengthening in the Region – UK Department for International Development, United States Agency for International Development, Canadian International Development Agency, Japan International Cooperation Agency.

The agenda will be arranged around the three dimensions of universal health coverage: financial protection, provision of needed services, and expanding coverage to the poor and vulnerable.

It is expected that the meeting will result in the development of a regional roadmap to accelerate progress towards universal health coverage in the Region.

[Read more](#)

Programme

Day 1 – Thursday, 5 December 2013

Opening Session

08:00-8:30

Registration

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08:30-08:35

Address by H.E. Mr Abdul Rahman bin Mohamad Al-Owais

Minister of Health, United Arab Emirates

08:35-08:45

Address by Dr Ala Alwan,

Regional Director, WHO/EMRO

08:45-09:05

The Road to Universal Health Coverage: WHR 2010 and beyond

Dr David Evans, Director, Health Systems Governance and Financing, HGF/WHO/HQ

09:05-09:15

World Bank: Helping countries move towards UHC

[Dr Enis Baris, Director, MENA](#)

[Sector Manager, Health](#)

[Nutrition & Population, World Bank](#)

09:15-09:30

[Universal Health Coverage: Challenges and Opportunities for EMR Countries](#)

Dr Sameen Siddiqi, Director, Health System Development, WHO/EMRO

09:30-09:35

[Objectives of the Meeting and Agenda](#)

[Dr Awad Mataria, Health Economist, WHO/EMRO](#)

09:30-10:30

Panel Discussion

□

10:30-11:00

Coffee Break

□

Session 1 – Political Commitment and UHC

11:00-11:15

[Universal health coverage in the European Region: how we get there?](#)

[Dr Mihály Kápolyi](#)

[former Minister of Health of Hungary](#)

11:15-11:30

Translating political commitment into actionable program: Reaching out to the informal sector in Thailand

[Dr Suwit Wibulpolprasert](#)

[Senior Advisor on](#)

[Disease Control](#)

[Ministry of Public Health](#)

[Thailand](#)

11:30-11:45

[Towards Universal Health Coverage: Progress and achievements of the health reform in China](#)

[Prof Meng Qingyue](#)

[Dean of the School of](#)

[Public Health and CEO](#)

[China Center for Health](#)

[Development Studies](#)

[Peking University, China](#)

11:45-12:00

Moroccan Experience in Progressing towards UHC: Political Commitment and Policy Implementation

[Mr Hazim Jilali](#)
[Director General, l'Agence Nationale](#)
[de l'Assurance Maladie](#)
[Morocco](#)

12:00-13:00

Panel Discussion

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13:00-14:00

Lunch Break

□

14:00-14:15

Transforming the Turkish Health Care System to move towards UHC – Health Sector Report put in Perspective

[Prof. Recep Akdağ](#)

[Former Minister of Health of Turkey](#)

14:15-14:30

Good Health at Low Cost – How did other low-income countries do it?

[Dr Hailom Banteverga](#)

[Professor in health communication
and systems, Ethiopia](#)

14:30-14:45

The role of Social Health Insurance in Promoting UHC – the Experience of the Philippines

, Regional Advisor, Health Economics & Health Care Financing, WHO-EMRO [Eduardo Banzon](#)

14:45-15:00

Jordanian experience: Keeping out of pocket spending under control

Jamal Abu-Saif, Director of
Technical Affairs and Studies
High Health Council
Jordan

15:00-15:30

Panel Discussion

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15:30-16:00

Coffee Break

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16:00-17:30

Panel Discussion: Reducing waste and improving efficiency

[Dr Enis Baris](#)
[Dr Awad Mataria](#)

Dr Henk Bekedam; Dr Faleh Ali; Dr

Moderated by:

SIDE MEETING

17:30-19:00

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Role of academia and civil society in promoting UHC

Day 2: Friday, 6 December 2013

Session 3 – Monitoring Progress towards UHC & Developing a Research Agenda

08:30-08:50

Framework for monitoring progress towards UHC

Dr David Evans, Director, Health Systems Governance and Financing, HGF/WHO-HQ

08:50-09:30

Discussion on framework for monitoring UHC

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09:30-09:45

[The Importance of Implementation Research for Achieving Universal Health Coverage](#)

[Prof David Peters, Chair](#)
[Department of International Health](#)
[Johns Hopkins](#)
[Bloomberg School of Public Health](#)

09:45-10:00

The French Experience in Promoting and Maintaining UHC – the Efficiency/Equity Trade Off in Expanding Coverage to All?

[Prof Jean-Paul Moatti,](#)
[Director](#)
[ITOM ISP, France](#)

10:00-10:30

Panel Discussion

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10:30-11:00

Coffee Break

□

coverage for UHC

Session 4 –

11:00-11:15

[National Health Service/UK and quality of health care](#)

[Prof Salman Rawaf](#)

[Prof of Public Health](#)

[Imperial College London, UK](#)

11:15-11:30

Access to essential medicine and health technology in the context of Universal Health Coverage

Dr Hans V. Hogerzeil

Professor of Global Health and the Right to Health, Groningen University, Netherlands

11:30-11:45

Moving towards universal health coverage in countries with health workforce crisis – the way forward

Dr Barbra Stilwell, Senior Director , Health Workforce Solutions, IntraHealth International

11:45-12:00

Family Practice in Lower- and Upper-Middle Income Countries – summary of the experience of Brazil, China and Thailand

Dr Hernan Julio Montenegro

Von Mühlbrock

Health System Adviser, HIS/SDS/ WHO-HQ

12:00-13:30

Prayers and Lunch Break

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13:30-14:00

Panel Discussion

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Session 5 – Population Coverage: Reaching out to ALL

14:00-14:15

Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana [RSBY] Experience from India: Moving towards UHC

[Dr Nishant Jain](#)

[Deputy program director](#)

[GIZ](#)

[New Delhi, India](#)

14:15-14:30

[Establishing Urban Primary Health Care: Experience from Iran](#)

[Dr Arash Rashidian, Director](#)

[Health Systems Research](#)

[TUMS, Tehran](#)

14:30-14:45

[Extending coverage to the expatriate population in GCC countries](#)

[Dr Abdalla Sherif, Manager of](#)

[Health Insurance](#)

[Kingdom of Saudi Arabia](#)

14:45-15:00

[Extending population coverage in a low income setting: the Experience of Ghana](#)

[Dr Frank Nyonator](#)

[ex-Ministerial Adviser on](#)

[HSS and](#)

[ex-Director in HRH Directorate](#)

[MOH, Ghana](#)

15:00-15:30

Panel Discussion

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15:30-16:00

Coffee Break

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Session 6 – Developing a roadmap for UHC in EMR Countries

16:00-16:15

Introduction followed by Group Work: Developing a Roadmap for UHC in the EMR

Dr Sameen Siddiqi – Director Health System Development, WHO/EMRO

16:15-18:00

Group Work: Developing a Roadmap for UHC in the EMR □ [Breakout rooms]

Facilitators from WHO, WB and Regional HS Network

Day 3: Saturday, 7 December 2013

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Session 7 – Beyond the three Dimensions of UHC

08:30-08:45

Beyond Bismarck and Beveridge: innovations in health financing to achieve UHC

Dr Sania Nishtar, Founder and President, Heartfile

08:45-09:00

The role of SDH in advancing UHC

[Dr Jeanette Vega, Managing Director, Rockefeller Foundation](#)

09:00-09:15

Multi-sectoral Mechanisms to Enhance the Move towards Universal Health Coverage

[Prof Iona Kickbusch](#)

Director, Global Health Programme, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Switzerland

09:15-09:30

[Perceptions and policy drivers of UHC](#)

[Dr Abdul Ghaffar](#)

[Executive Director](#)

[Alliance for Health Policy](#)

[and System Research](#)

09:30-10:30

Panel Discussion

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10:30-11:00

Coffee Break



Session 8 – The Role of Development Partners in UHC

11:00-12:00

Round Table: Development partners' views and commitment towards UHC in the EMR

Moderated by: Sir George Alleyne
professor Bloomberg School of
Public Health
John Hopkins University

12:00-13:00

Panel Discussion: Expediting the move towards UHC in EMR – The way forward



13:00-14:00

Lunch Break

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Concluding Session

14:00-14:30

Presentation on Road Map for UHC in EMR

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14:30-15:00

Discussion

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15:00-15:15

Closing remarks

Background documents

World Health Reports

[World Health Report 2013: Research for universal health coverage](#)

[World Health Report 2010 - Health systems financing: the path to universal coverage](#)

[World Health Report 2008 - Primary health care \(now more than ever\)](#)

[World Health Report 2000 - Health systems: improving performance](#)

Related Regional Committee resolutions

EM/RC60/R.2

Universal health coverage

[French](#) | [Arabic](#) | [English](#)

EM/RC59/R.3

Health systems strengthening in countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region: challenges, priorities and options for future action

[French](#) | [Arabic](#) | [English](#)

EM/RC57/R.7

Strategic directions to improve health care financing in the Eastern Mediterranean Region: moving towards universal coverage 2011–2015

[French](#) | [Arabic](#) | [English](#)

Related Regional Committee papers

EM/RC60/Tech.Disc.2

Towards universal health coverage: challenges, opportunities and roadmap

[French](#) | [Arabic](#) | [English](#)

EM/RC59/Tech.Disc.1

Health systems strengthening in countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region: challenges, priorities and options for future action

[French](#) | [Arabic](#) | [English](#)

EM/RC57/Tech.Disc.1

Strategic directions to improve health care financing in the Eastern Mediterranean Region: moving towards universal coverage 2011–2015

[French](#) | [Arabic](#) | [English](#)

World Health Assembly

[A66/24 Universal health coverage - Report by the Secretariat, 22 March 2013](#)

[WHA58.33 Sustainable health financing, universal coverage and social health insurance, 2005](#)

[WHA64.9 Sustainable health financing structures and universal coverage, 24 May 2011](#)

{loadposition uhc-speakers}

Concept note

Concept note



[Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean Region, 17-18 May 2025, Cairo, Egypt](#)

Saturday 17th of May 2025 07:55:29 PM