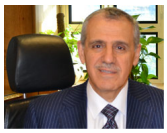
Regional meeting on accelerating progress towards universal health coverage: global experiences and lessons for the Eastern Mediterranean Region

Home



"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: 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

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 Mihly Kkeny

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

13:00-14:00

Lunch Break

Session 2 – otection for UHC

14:00-14:15

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

Prof. Recep Akda

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 Banteyerga

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

Eduardo Banzon , Regional Advisor, Health Economics & Health Care Financing, WHO-EMRO

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

15:30-16:00

Coffee Break

16:00-17:30

Panel Discussion: Reducing waste and improving efficiency

Dr Enis Baris Dr Henk Bekedam; Dr Faleh Ali; Dr

Dr Awad Mataria Moderated by:

SIDE MEETING

17:30-19:00

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

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

10:30-11:00

Coffee Break

Session 4 – Coverage for UHC

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 Mühlenbrock

Health System Adviser, HIS/SDS/ WHO-HQ

12:00-13:30

Prayers and Lunch Break

13:30-14:00

Panel Discussion

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

15:30-16:00

Coffee Break

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

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 Ilona 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

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

Concluding Session

14:00-14:30

Presentation on Road Map for UHC in EMR

14:30-15:00

Discussion

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

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Concept note

Concept note

Regional Committee Resolution EMRC59R.5 "Health systems strengthening in countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region: challenges, priorities and lessons learnt"

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