

**WHO UHC GLOBAL ROADMAP:  
PREPARING FOR  
THE UN HIGH-LEVEL MEETING 2023  
AND ACHIEVING HEALTH FOR ALL**

VERSION: MARCH 2023



**World Health  
Organization**



# Presentation overview

1. UHC HLM 2019 to 2023 roadmap
2. UHC progress and challenges
3. 4 evidence-based priority areas for action

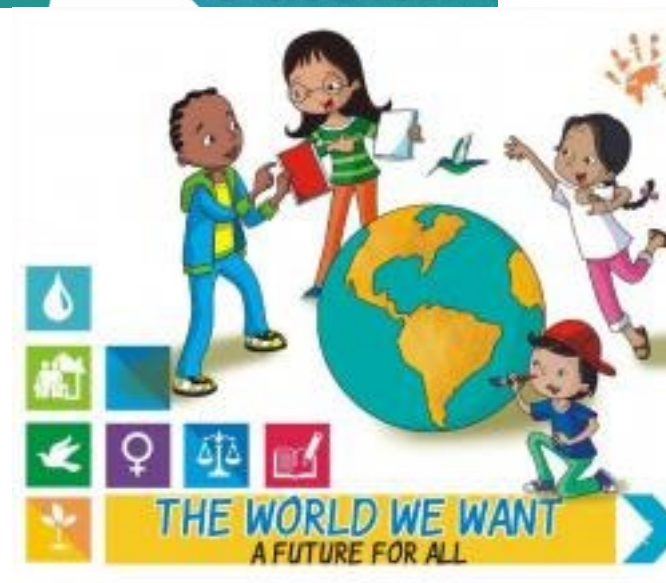
# UHC High-Level Meeting Declaration, 2019

through COVID-19 and Building the World We Want

UHC “implies that all people have access, without discrimination, to nationally determined sets of the needed promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative essential health services, and essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines and vaccines, while ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the users to financial hardship, with a special emphasis on the poor, vulnerable and marginalized segments of the population.”

The UHC HLM declaration has comprehensive references to most health topics, including to:

”Enhance emergency health preparedness and response systems.”



# UHC HLM at the 78<sup>th</sup> UNGA, September 2023



- A comprehensive review on the implementation of the present declaration to identify gaps and solutions to accelerate progress towards the achievement of universal health coverage by 2030.
- A concise, action-oriented political declaration, agreed in advance by consensus through intergovernmental negotiations.

## FORMAT

- Opening segment
- Plenary segment for general discussion
- Two multi-stakeholder panels
- Closing segment

## PARTICIPANTS

- Member States
- Observers of the General Assembly
- UN system, Interparliamentary Union, NGOs

## PREPARATION

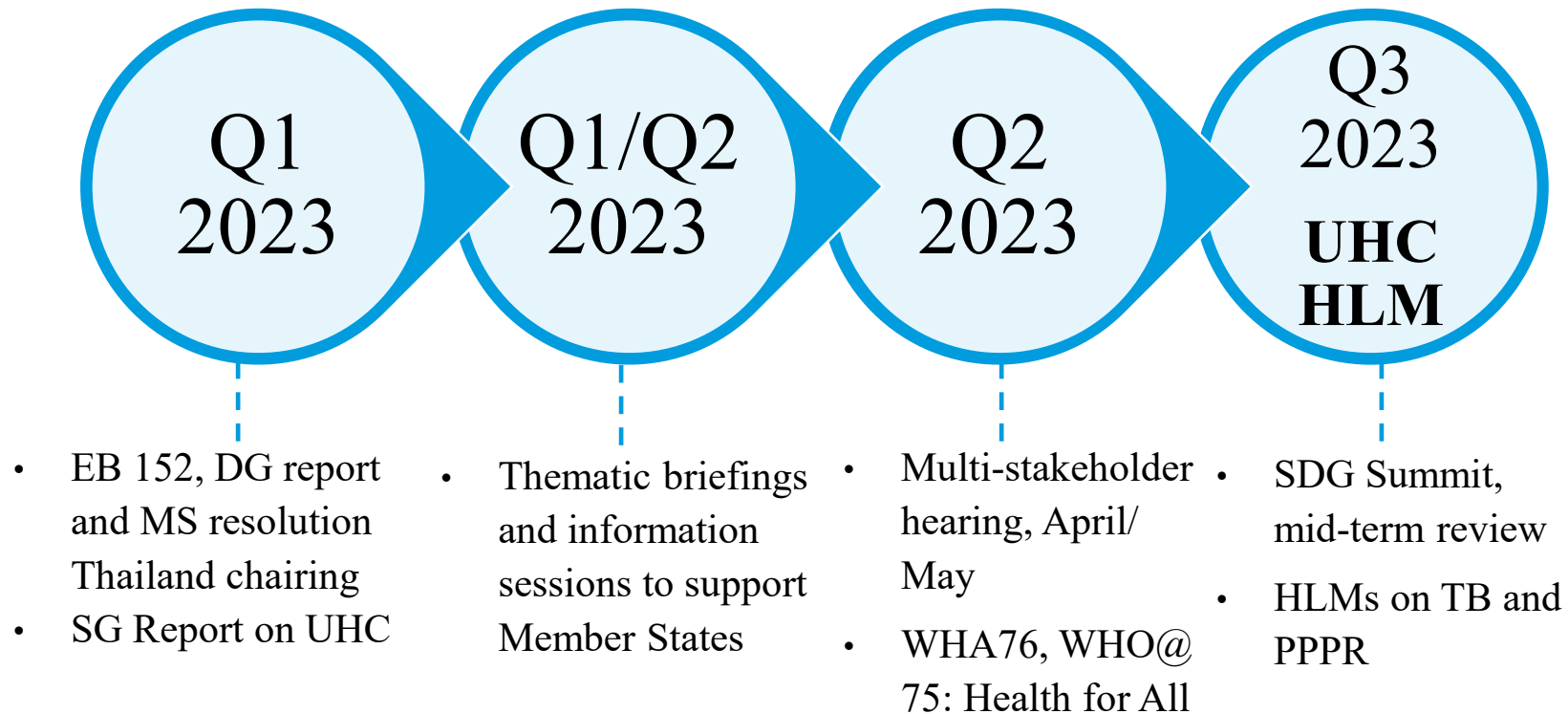
- Coordinated by the President, 77<sup>th</sup> UNGA, in consultation with Member States and supported by WHO:
- Accrediting and registering non-governmental entities.
  - Organizing a multi-stakeholder hearing before the end of June 2023
  - Determining thematic focus of two multi-stakeholder panels, appointing co-chairs from among the Heads of State or Government, and inviting participants for the panels
  - Identifying a high-level UHC champion to participate in the opening segment
  - Appointing co-facilitators to lead inter-governmental negotiations on the political declaration, agreed in advance by consensus and submitted by the PGA for adoption by the Assembly

[A/RES/75/315](#)

# UHC global roadmap to HLM 2023: Key Milestones


Towards a concise, action-oriented political declaration

## WHO @ 75 Health for All



**Member State and multistakeholder leadership and action is needed for a successful UHC HLM, the progressive realization of UHC and Health for All.**

# WHO resources to support countries for the UHC HLM



The screenshot shows the WHO website's navigation bar with links for Home, Health Topics, Countries, Newsroom, Emergencies, Data, and About. The main heading is 'Preparing for the UN High-level meeting 2023 and achieving Health for All'. Below the heading is a photograph of a group of people in a rural setting. The text on the page includes a paragraph about the 2019 political declaration, a list of actions, and a section for technical briefs.

World Health Organization

Home / Activities / Preparing for the UN High-level meeting 2023 and achieving Health for All

## Preparing for the UN High-level meeting 2023 and achieving Health for All

In September 2019, Heads of State and Government endorsed an ambitious and comprehensive political declaration at the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on universal health coverage (UHC), reaffirming the right of every human being, without distinction of any kind, to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and recommitting to achieve UHC by 2030.

This political declaration was adopted by the UNGA through resolution A/RES/74/2 on 10 October 2019, with commitment to implement a list of 58 actions. Provisions were included for WHO and other relevant agencies to work with the Secretary-General:

- to prepare "a report including recommendations on the implementation of the present declaration towards achieving universal health coverage during the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly, which will serve to inform the high-level meeting to be convened in 2023"
- "to convene a high-level meeting on universal health coverage in 2023 in New York, aimed to undertake a comprehensive review on the implementation of the present declaration to identify gaps and solutions to accelerate progress towards the achievement of universal health coverage by 2030"

The HLM and its political declaration are expected to undertake a comprehensive review the implementation of the 2019 political declaration, identify gaps, and provide recommendations to accelerate action on UHC. It is expected that the HLM will take into account lessons learned from COVID-19 on the resilience and capacities of health systems, and likely address many sensitive issues including sustainable financing, SRHR, migration, and TRIPS among others.

[WHO UHC Global Roadmap: preparing for the UN HLM 2023 and achieving Health for All](#)

In preparation for the 2023 HLM, technical briefings and thematic dialogue series are organized. Through the Group of Friends of UHC and Global Health platform, WHO and other key stakeholders will provide updates on the latest data, evidence, and policy recommendations. Technical briefs in support of the different meetings are available below.

[Calendar of thematic briefings & dialogues](#)

### Technical briefs

23 January 2023  
[Transforming food systems to reduce global inequality and improve food safety and health](#)

WHO has a range of tools to support countries prepared for UHC HLM and track progress

- UHC HLM preparation website
- WHO and World Bank Group UHC global monitoring report series
- WHO health expenditure reports
- WHO UHC dashboards by country (triple billion dashboards)
- UHC2030's multistakeholder reviews
- Integrated health tool with UHC Compendium and One Health Tool
- Health inequality monitor, etc.

# Progress on UHC

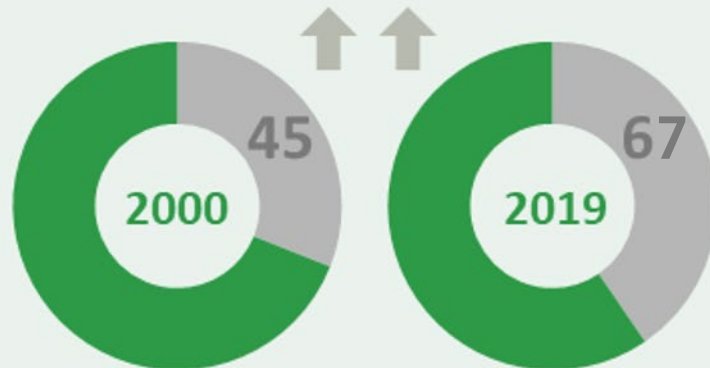
## Making good on commitments

### UHC SERVICE COVERAGE INDEX

**IMPROVED**

FROM 45 IN 2000

TO 67 IN 2019



### THE GLOBAL AVERAGE LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH

**INCREASED**



**FASTEST GROWTH**

**IN THE AFRICA REGION**

Health systems improvements were foundational to significant progress in all countries on improved health outcomes across most health programme areas.

- Between 2013 and 2020, the number of health workers globally increased by 29%
- Significant progress in expanding access to medicines and other essential health products and strengthening regulation.
- WHO's Special Programme for Primary Health Care, with the UHC Partnership, supports 120 countries with in-country policy advisors: 95% of these countries increased service coverage.

Sources: WHO GHO [Life expectancy](#), [Tracking universal health coverage: 2021 global monitoring report](#), [UN SDG 3 progress report](#)

# Challenges for UHC – falling short of targets



- Although the majority of countries recognize universal health coverage as a goal, a lack of concrete operational steps coupled with inadequate public financing for health are pushing progress further off track ([UHC2030](#)).
- Out-of-pocket spending on health as a share of total household expenditure (indicator 3.8.2) increased continuously between 2000 and 2017, with the total population facing catastrophic or impoverishing health spending estimated to be between 1.4 and 1.9 billion people in 2017 ([WHO, WB UHC Global Monitoring Report 2021](#)).
- 800–840 million people away from achieving the WHO GPW target of 1 billion more people benefiting from UHC ([WHO Triple Billion dashboard](#)).
- Many other health-related SDG targets are also off course:
  - An estimated 5 million under-5 children died in [2020](#). The number of ‘zero-dose’ children increased by 5 million in [2021](#) compared with 2019, going up to 18 million.
  - Global MMR is estimated at 211 maternal deaths per 100 000 live births ([2017](#)), against the SDG global target of less than 70 maternal deaths per 100 000 live births.
  - Globally we are [off course for SDG targets](#) on communicable diseases (lagging by 40% for malaria, only half the global target for TB treatment, HIV incidence declined by 39% against the target of 75%), and non-communicable diseases (including heart diseases, diabetes, cancer and chronic respiratory diseases and their risk factors; mental health; substance abuse; road traffic accidents; sexual and reproductive health and gender equality with a “shadow pandemic of gender-based violence”; and social and environmental determinants of health ).



# COVID-19, Climate change, Conflicts, Crises

*In the wake of the global economic shocks from the COVID-19 pandemic, climate-related crises, conflicts, rising interest payments on public debt and other challenges, all countries' capacities to invest in health are at risk. Without immediate action, many low- and lower middle-income countries will be unable to make the necessary investments to strengthen public health preparedness and response capabilities and will be left behind on the path to health and economic recovery. ([World Bank, From Double Shock to Double Recovery – Old Scars, New Wounds: Technical Update #2, September 2022](#))*

## Essential health services

**92%** (117 of 127) countries reported some extent of disruptions in at least one essential health service



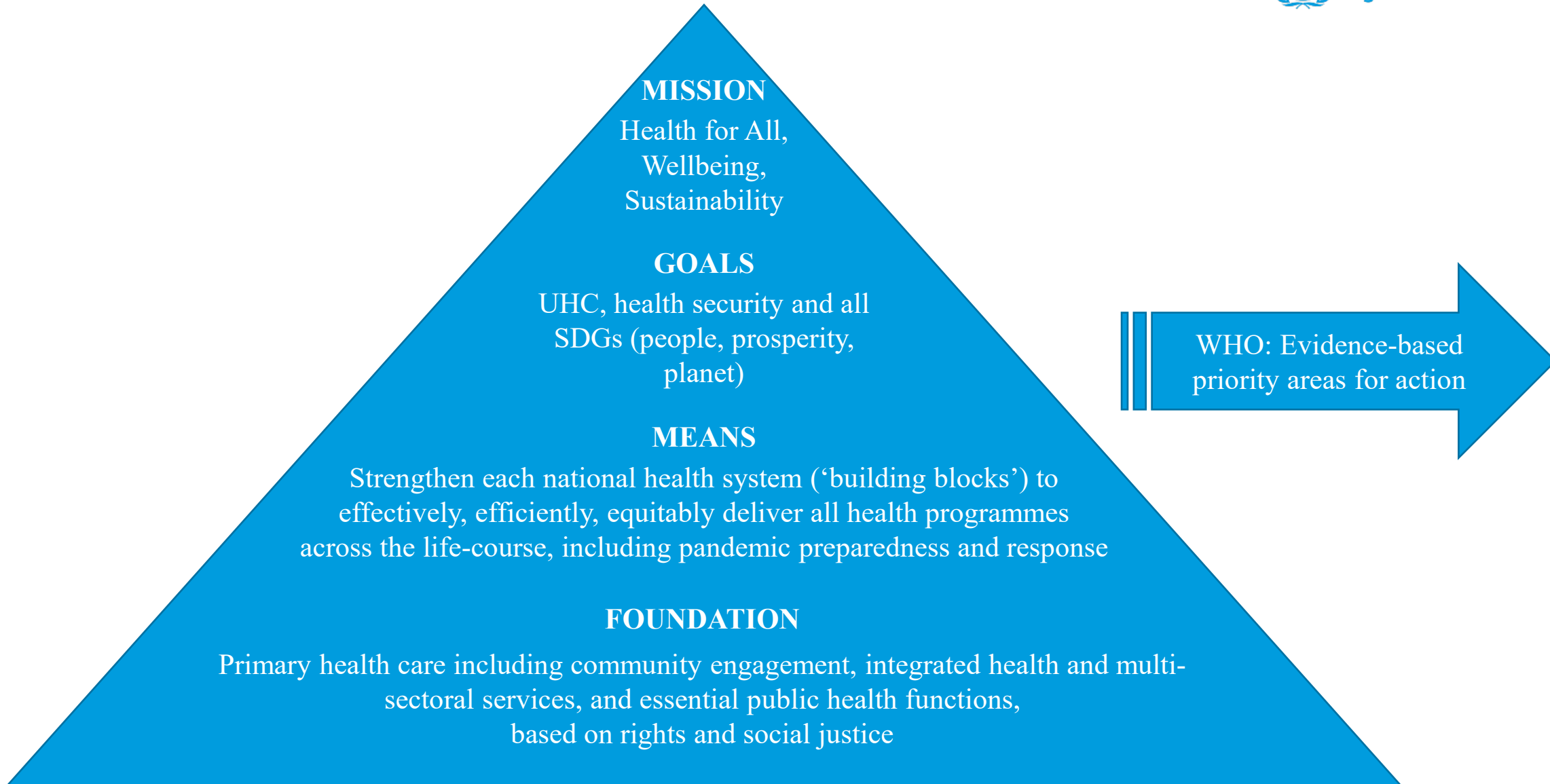
## 5 biggest barriers countries faced:

- Health workforce challenges
- Insufficient funding
- Supply and equipment shortages
- Demand-side challenges (acceptability, affordability for communities)
- Inadequate data/information

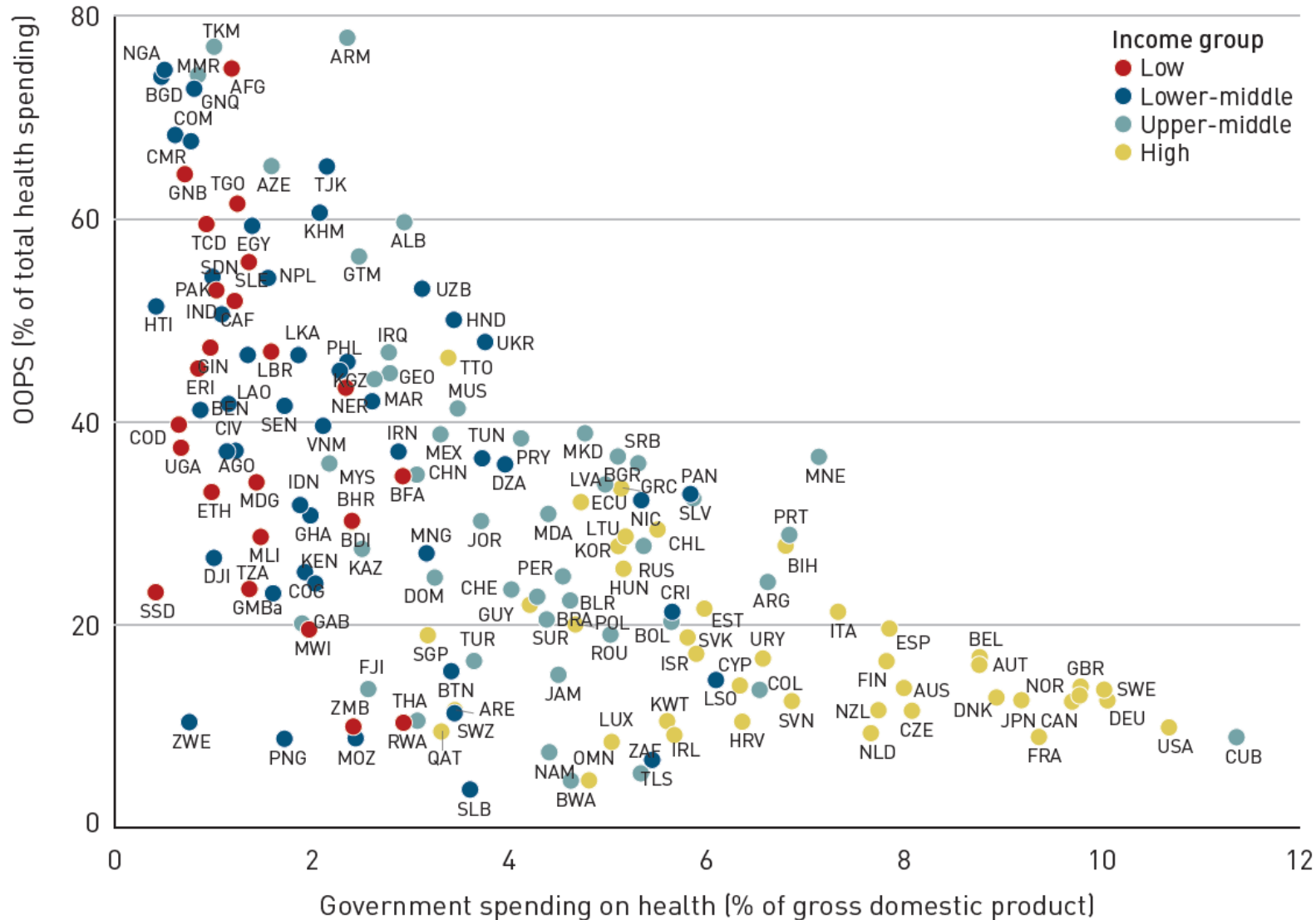
## Across the SDGs

- **Extreme poverty** continues to increase, with close to 100 million people affected.
- Exacerbated **gender-based violence**, affecting 243 million women and girls, a 'shadow pandemic' noted by [UN WOMEN](#).
- **Global education crisis**: 147 million children missed more than half of their in-class instruction over the past two years.
- 25 million **children under 5 years missing out on vaccinations**, 6 million more under vaccinated than in 2019.
- **COVID-19 vaccine inequities**: 63% of the total population across the WHO Member States have completed their primary vaccination, while only 18% of people in lower-income countries have ([Aug. 2022](#))

# Achieving Health for All: an evidence-based strategy

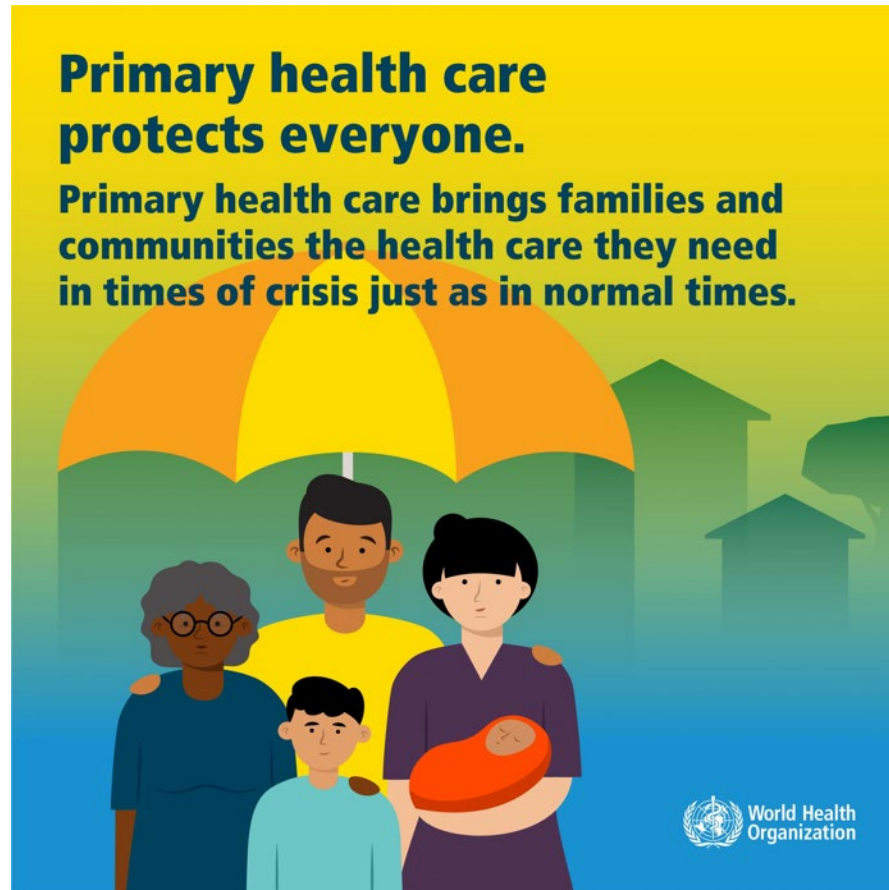


# 1. Invest More, Invest Better in one national plan with government financing for UHC



- Higher government spending is associated with lower reliance on out-of-pocket expenditures.
- It is critical to define a nationally-prioritized, costed package of essential health care services with financial protection.
- Coverage and protection should be prioritized for populations in the most vulnerable situations.
- WHO and partners are developing an *integrated health tool* to support countries in developing evidence-based, costed national plans and packages.

## 2. One national health system oriented to PHC as a foundation for UHC, health security, and better health

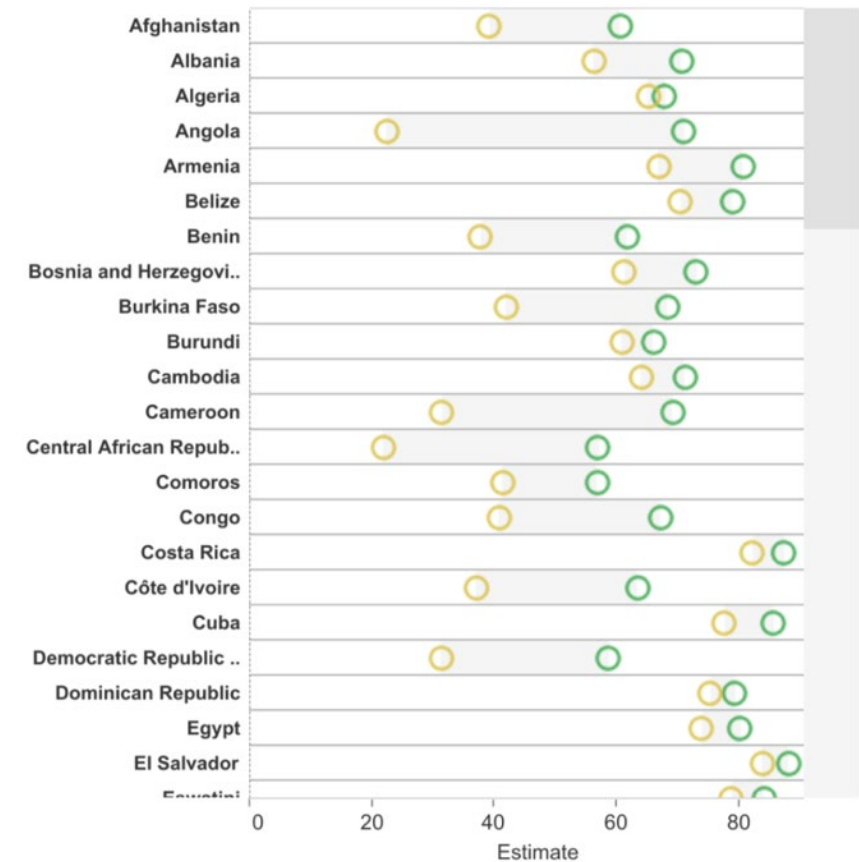


- For Equity, Effectiveness, Efficiency
- Founded on rights and social justice
- 75% of the projected health gains from the SDGs could be achieved through PHC.
  - Saving over 60 million lives
  - Increasing average life expectancy by 3.7 years by 2030
  - Reducing the burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases
  - Improving health through the life course
- 90% of essential UHC interventions can be delivered through a PHC approach
- Integrative approach enables cross-programmatic efficiencies.

### 3. Leaving no-one behind, informed by equity-oriented research and data

- Averages of global, regional and national progress on UHC often mask inequalities.
- Disaggregated data are only available for a few components of the UHC service coverage index and only 50% of countries have disaggregated data in their health statistics reports.
- Globally, 25% and 30% of births and deaths, respectively, are not registered.
- National and subnational data are essential to identify and address health equity.
- Inequalities, across and within countries, continue to be pervasive and tracking of unmet needs is not systematically carried out.
- Measurement regarding the capacity of health systems need to be improved, and monitoring of financial hardship, quality of care and foregone care to be included

*Inequalities in RMNCH service coverage between poorest and richest quintiles within countries*



## 4. Opportunities for multisectoral, multilateral action

- WHO's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary: *Health for All*
- 2023 UNGA high-level meetings
- Multisectoral and multistakeholder consultations in preparation for the UHC high-level meeting
- Meetings with partners in the Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All and Universal Health Coverage Partnership
- Engagement with global health initiatives and regional economic bodies and institutions.

### Global solidarity for the world we want

**“Humanity faces a stark and urgent choice: **breakdown or breakthrough.**”**

United Nations Secretary-General  
António Guterres  
10 September 2021



## 5. Track progress and accountabilities, with a focus on those left behind

A range of tools are available to support monitoring and accountability efforts for UHC:



- Across UN progress reports: UN Secretary-General's progress report on UHC, annual SDG Progress Report, SDG3 Global Action Plan Report, Special Rapporteur's report on the right to health, UN Secretary-General's report on Global Health and Foreign Policy.
  - WHO and World Bank global monitoring reports on UHC, including country-level data on UHC service coverage and financial protection.
  - Global health expenditure reports, the country UHC dashboards, the Health Inequality Monitor, the Health Financing Progress Matrix and the Cross-Programmatic Efficiency Analysis.
- 
- UHC2030 multistakeholder review, including synthesis reports and country-specific profiles on the state of UHC commitment.
  - Other reviews: High-level Political Forum Voluntary National Review, regional in-depth reports on UHC and other health-related SDGs, and the Universal Health and Preparedness Review.

# Thank you

WHO secretariat task team for the UHC HLM 2023, across technical divisions and regions.

More information on preparation for the UHC HLM can be found on the following websites:

- [WHO, Preparing for the UN High-level meeting 2023 and achieving Health for All](#)
- [UHC2030](#)

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