

Ghana: Universal Health Coverage Roadmap

Universal Health Care (UHC) is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as ensuring that all people have access to health services (including prevention, promotion, treatment, rehabilitation and palliation) of sufficient quality to be effective while also ensuring that the use of these services do not expose the user to financial hardship.

Ghana has committed to achieving UHC by 2030 and is dedicated to nation-wide primary health care access. Primary Health Care (PHC) was the bedrock of the Medium Term Health Strategy, Community-Based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) and National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) policies which have by and large formed the basis for national action towards PHC.

In April 2019, Ghana's Ministry of Health (MoH) showed further progress through the development of the National UHC Roadmap — a health sector plan focused on strengthening sustainable primary healthcare delivery in health facilities across the country. In keeping with global standards on consultations around UHC, the roadmap calls for multi-sectoral involvement and increased engagement between the MoH and civil society organizations (CSOs) in the redesign of a PHC delivery and financing system that is reflective of civil society priorities and built for the needs of the Ghanaian people.

The Alliance for Reproductive Health Rights, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), UNAIDS, PAI, Christian Aid, West Africa AIDS Foundation, Send Ghana and Hope for Future Generations convened a country-level advocacy meeting for the UN High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UN HLM on UHC) in Ghana. The objective was to bring together stakeholders to identify challenges to UHC advancement and discuss how to collectively bolster UHC progress at the national level. From this meeting it was agreed that the Ghanaian government should:

- Ensure the involvement of civil society in the initial policy planning and drafting process.
- Ensure that investments are made not just in increasing the quantity of Community-Based Health Planning and Services but also in improving the quality of CHPS care.
- Update national health governance documents to more clearly reflect health as a fundamental human right.
- Implement progressive tax measures to mobilize resources for health.

Read more at <http://arhr.org.gh>



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It is intended to localize global UHC efforts in Ghana's policies and systems and guide the development of operational plans to deliver health services for the next decade. Furthermore this roadmap will direct all existing UHC initiatives and efforts towards one national target and milestone.

As governments implement UHC policies and strive to uphold commitments towards achieving *health for all* it is important that these policies reflect the needs of their constituents. CSOs inputs are valued in the development process as they represent the beneficiaries of care — the people who the UHC roadmap will impact the most. Findings from the consultation support that, if Ghana is to reach its 2030 target, it must begin to view health through a lens that reflects the changing lifestyles and current needs of the Ghanaian population.

Looking forward, the UHC roadmap is not just a roadmap for the health sector but for other sectors who play vital roles in the journey towards UHC 2030. UHC is only attainable with multi-sectoral, inter-ministry and interagency collaboration. With strong governance systems to coordinate cross-sector efforts and the UHC roadmap as the national benchmark Ghana will reach its UHC 2030 targets.

UHC is all people and communities having access to the full spectrum of essential, quality health services, from health promotion to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care