



World Health Organization: Importance of Community Engagement in the Universal Health Coverage 2030 Initiative

Geneva, Switzerland



Amanda Abraham, M.P.H. Candidate in collaboration with Isabelle Wachsmuth, World Health Organization Department of Safety and Security

SUMMARY

One of many initiatives the WHO has been working on is Universal Health Coverage 2030 (UHC2030). As part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), all UN Member States have agreed to try to achieve UHC by 2030.

The mission of UHC2030 is to accelerate progress towards UHC through strengthening health systems and to attain the highest possible level of health for all people.

PROJECT PURPOSE

Goals and Objectives:

The overall goal was to share knowledge to member states, participants, and all stakeholders who would implement strategies to achieve UHC

- Identify the best strategies of communication to engage different types of audience
- Identify and test innovation knowledge management strategies with partners and member states
- Participate and contribute to assess the add value of multi-stakeholder initiative to foster UHC

STRUCTURE OF PROJECT

- Contribute toward UHC2030 through evaluation of stakeholder statements
- Review of UHC and community engagement literature
- Develop case studies on successful implementation through community engagement
- Identify important factors to include in policy brief on achieving UHC

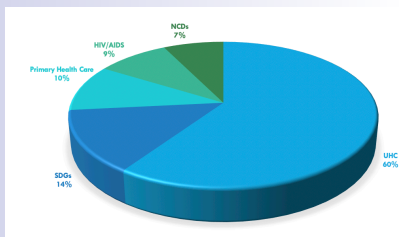


Figure 1. The 5 leading topics of concern to UHC2030 stakeholders

OUTCOMES AND EVALUATION

This practicum was successful in gaining more knowledge and understanding of UHC. This was addressed through an assessment of the add value of UHC multi-stakeholders through a review of the current UHC literature and stakeholder statements, creation of metrics and spreadsheets, along with the development the case study for the policy briefs.

INTERPRETATIONS

An important lesson learned was recognizing that achieving UHC requires great effort from many stakeholders, especially the community itself who are crucial in this initiative and will help create a sustainable program.

Table 1. The many ways in which involving the community is important.

ADVOCACY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating awareness and sensitization (health promotion, right to health, etc.) • Facilitating networking between different people of the community • Facilitating social movement (walk, exhibition, action learning forums) • Capturing successful experiences
PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bringing holistic community perspective of health issues in the specific context • Supporting to national bodies to review or formulate policies, guidelines and procedures • Identifying needs, gaps and formulating practical recommendations, solidarity messages, practical solutions and actions • Participating in policy dialogue • Facilitating stakeholders' coordination • Inclusion of marginalized and vulnerable groups (including gender issue and community health management committee)
PARTICIPATION IN IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERVENTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing direct health services to effected community • Bringing language and cultural consideration • Mobilizing resources to address the health issues • Providing capacity building support to community • Supporting effective decentralization of health services and interventions (including financing mechanism)

Ongoing challenges include understanding stakeholders' motivations that ultimately impact their support and the success in achieving UHC.

REFERENCES

- www.uhc2030.org/un-hlm-2019/uhc-statements/
- www.who.int/health-topics/

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