



World Health Organization

NAMIBIA

COURSE ON UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

28 SEPTEMBER – 2 OCTOBER 2015

BACKGROUND

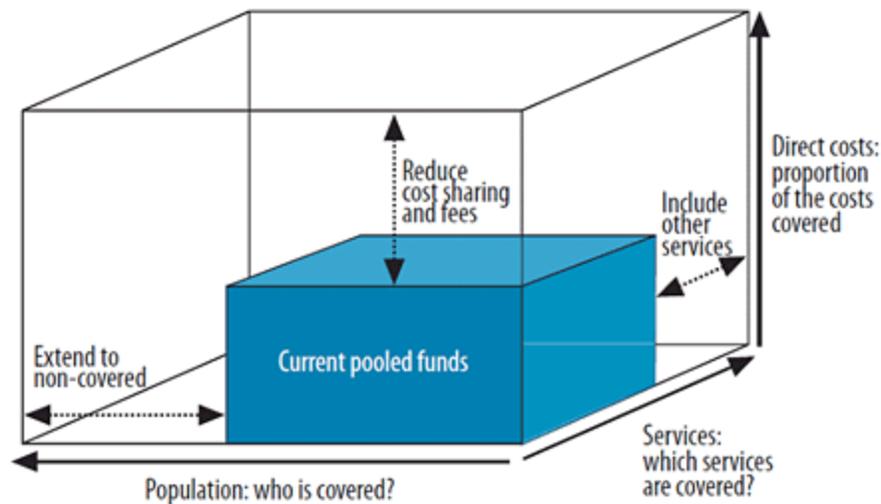
Universal Health Coverage (UHC) has attracted a lot of attention during the last years and it has been positioned by WHO as a priority goal in the International Health Agenda. WHO Director General, Dr Margaret Chan, has stated “I regard Universal Health Coverage as the single most powerful concept that public health has to offer. It is inclusive. It unifies services and delivers them in a comprehensive and integrated way, based on primary health care”.

UHC means to ensure that all people obtain the health services they need without suffering financial hardship when paying for them. It is firmly based on the WHO constitution of 1948 declaring health a fundamental human right and on the Health for All agenda set by the Alma-Ata declaration in 1978, where equity was paramount.

In 2015 the World Health Assembly (WHA) mentioned UHC for the first time in its resolution 58.33, saying that everyone should be able to access health services and not be subject to financial hardship in doing so and more recently in 2013 the 66th WHA and the 68th UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) reaffirmed support for UHC.

WHO’s 2010 World Health Report used the “UHC Cube Diagram” to illustrate the three dimensions in moving towards universal coverage, namely (Figure 1):

1. Population: who is covered. For example, increase the share of the population that benefits from pooled financing.
2. Direct costs: proportion of costs that are covered. For example, reduce the amount of out-of-pocket payments through more financing with pre-paid insurance and taxation.
3. Services: which services are covered. For example, expand the package of services that are paid for from pooled financing resources.



Three dimensions to consider when moving towards universal coverage

Countries need to consider these three elements in the movement towards UHC. First, countries need to define the package of services. Second, the population coverage must be determined and finally the amount of resources needed to cover the cost.

A strong, efficient and well-run Health System is essential for a country to be able to achieve universal health coverage. Hence the different building blocks of the existing health system should be strengthened:

1. Health services that meet health needs through people-centred integrated care.
2. Financing health services so people do not suffer financial hardship when using them.
3. Medical products, vaccines and technologies. Access to essential medicines and technologies to diagnose and treat medical problems for all.
4. Human Resources for Health. A sufficient capacity of well-trained, motivated health workers to provide the services to meet patients' needs based on the best available evidence.
5. Health Information System.
6. Leadership and Governance.

Universal health coverage has a direct impact on a population's health. Access to health services enables people to be more productive and active contributors to their families and communities. At the same time, financial risk protection prevents people from being pushed into poverty when they have to pay for health services out of their own pockets. Universal health coverage is thus a powerful component of sustainable development goals (SDGs) and poverty reduction, and a key element of any effort to reduce social inequities. Universal coverage is the hallmark of a governments' commitment to improve the wellbeing of all its citizens.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course objectives are:

1. Provide the participants with an understanding of the basic concepts of Universal Health Coverage, its components and theoretical framework.
2. Provide the participants with relevant practical examples on how some low and middle income countries have moved towards Universal Health Coverage.
3. Build and reinforce capacities for design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of participants' country UHC programmes.
4. Practical application of what has been learned in the course in group work.

TARGET AUDIENCE

This training is designed for international professionals interested in learning about, working with or seeking to work with Universal Health Coverage. Potential participants may come from the policy sector, Government such as National Ministry overseeing UHC or public health or health systems, private sector and civil society.

TRAINING METHODS

This course will be taught through didactic lectures and presentations, interactive sessions, country case studies and presentations made by the participants about their countries.

Participants will be contacted well ahead of time and encouraged to bring along country-specific data and documents related to UHC which would be used for case studies and group discussions during the course.

Selected participants will be provided course materials electronically before the start of the course starts.

FACILITATORS

This course will mainly be facilitated by WHO staff specialized in different areas of work related to UHC. External lecturers from other relevant organizations will be present.

CERTIFICATION

This course is organized by WHO Country Office Namibia. All participants will receive a "Certificate of Attendance" at the end of the course as proof of their participation duly signed and authenticated by WHO. The course is a 5 day full time seminar and participants are expected to take part in each session.

DATES AND LOCATION

The course will be held in Windhoek, Namibia from the 28 September – 2 October 2015.

TUITION FEE

The course will be free of charge to all participants.

TRAVEL AND ACCOMODATION

Participants (or their funding agencies) are expected to cover the cost of their travels as well as make their own accommodation plans. However, WHO will provide necessary information and logistical support to the participants in order to facilitate their travel and accommodation plans.

WHO covers all other costs related to the organization of the training course which includes course materials, coffee breaks and lunches on each of the five days of the course, including one evening dinner reception.

VISAS

Applicants are responsible for obtaining a visa if required. A formal invitation and visa support letter will be provided by WHO. Please note that obtaining a VISA may require several weeks and hence early application is advised.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Places for the course are limited. Interested candidates can download an online application form from the WHO Namibia website, accessible [here](#) or visit <http://www.afro.who.int/en/namibia/trainings-and-seminars.html>

Note that as part of the application form a CV, a document guaranteeing financial sponsorship by the applicant's organization/ company as well as a short motivation statement are required.

The deadline is midnight GMT/UTC + 01:00 on Friday 31 July 2015.

A course selection committee will review applications and places on the course will be offered by email during the week of 3 August 2015.

CONTACT

For more details kindly contact Ms Cathrin Fisch at afwcona@who.int and Dr Tomas Zapata zapatat@who.int