

Technical Specification – Universal Health Coverage, Including Health Financing and Health Service Delivery (HP 16)

Achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is a central goal for ASEAN, ensuring that all individuals and communities have access to quality health services without suffering financial hardship. It is also foundational to health security and sustainable development, as strong, inclusive health systems are better able to prevent, detect, and respond to health threats. The progress toward UHC requires investment in health system capacity, service integration, and innovations that reach underserved populations. Projects under HP 16 are encouraged to support reforms and initiatives that make health systems more efficient, resilient, and inclusive, particularly in the face of rising costs, demographic change, and emerging health challenges.

Projects intending to contribute to HP 16 should demonstrate that they have taken into account the following general, global, regional and national considerations:

General

- Multi-stakeholder platforms to promote collaborations at global and country levels on health systems strengthening
- Improving health systems at national, regional, and global actions in the following three interrelated health systems policy areas:
 - Service delivery: scaling up investments and expanding engagements with non-state providers to improve access to medicines and health technologies (innovations) as well as patient safety and quality of health services
 - Health financing: Mobilising resources through progressive taxation and prioritising health within sustainable macroeconomic frameworks, expanding pooling arrangements to improve financial protection, and strategic purchasing to increase efficiency of health spending
 - Governance: adopting legal frameworks that support access to quality health services and developing dialogue platforms and multi-sectoral actions including promoting peoples' voice mechanisms and freedom of information and expanded use of quality data as well as regional and global mechanisms for collective action and partnerships

Global

- Refer to WHO's approach to [health financing](#) that focuses on revenue raising, pooling of funds, and purchasing of services. The same link also has:
 - Factsheets on primary health care (PHC), community-based health insurance, free health care policies

- Databases and tools for global health expenditure, repository of health budget, health financing progress matrix background indicators, and the global health observatory (health financing)
- World Health Assembly resolutions on sustainable health financing
- Training including capacity building for health financing and e-Learning course on health financing policy for UHC
- Technical work on health financing and economics
- Refer to WHO's [UHC](#) for key facts and progress towards UHC including other related publications such as the PHC measurement framework and indicators, and UHC Service Package Delivery & Implementation (SPDI) tool
- Refer to [World Bank's strategy](#) on supporting countries in delivering quality and affordable health services
- Refer to [UHC2030](#) a global movement to build strong health systems for UHC
- Refer to [UHC Partnership](#) on designing essential package for health services and PHC models of service delivery
- Refer to "[Delivering Quality Health Services: a Global Imperative for Universal Health Coverage](#)" for a description on the essential role of quality in the delivery of health care services

Regional:

- Refer to the [AHC 2 Work plan for Cluster Priority 16: Universal Health Coverage](#), including health financing and health service delivery and its relevant Programme Objectives (2021-2025) to identify priority activities
- Refer to [UHC in the South-East Asia](#) for details on events, meeting reports, and featured publications
- Refer to [Universal Health Coverage in ASEAN](#) for details on ASEAN states move to UHC including enabling environment such as investment policies
- Refer to Asian Development Bank's [policy brief](#) on achieving UHC in developing Asia and the Pacific
- Refer to [ASEAN Statistics web portal](#) for UHC service coverage index
- Reach out to WHO regional offices and the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) to learn of any relevant regional initiatives to complement or collaborate with

National

- National Actions Plans for Global Health Security
- National Universal Health Coverage policies and strategic plans
- National public policy repositories
- National councils for population and development
- National policy briefs on sustainable financing for UHC
- Local organisations including private entities supporting health financing for UHC and overall enhancing access to UHC

