Advancing UHC: governing the contribution of the private sector

Member States’ Information Session
6 March 2024
Why engaging with the private sector to advance UHC?
The world is NOT on track to achieve SDG3 targets

Children who missed out one or more vaccines

- 20.5 million in 2022
- 18.5 million in 2019

Cases of malaria

- 249 million in 2022
- 244 million in 2021

Maternal mortality

- A woman dies of pregnancy-related causes every 2 minutes

Source: WHO Immunization data 2023
Billions are left behind on the path to UHC

4.5 billion people
(57% of the world population)
Lack full coverage of essential health services

2 billion people
(26% of the world population)
Face any form of financial hardship due to OOP health spending

Why governing the contribution of the private sector matters?

The private sector involvement in healthcare is **substantial, heterogenous** and spans the **healthcare value chain**.

Growth in the private sector represents a complex mixture of both **opportunities and threats** for public health goals.

**Inclusive public health policy** strengthens the public health system and improve access and equity.
We need to look for new ways to accelerate the achievement of UHC.

Calling countries to embrace the full capacity and opportunities within their health systems to deliver high-quality, equitable and affordable healthcare to the population.
Private Sector share

OECD | Primary Care services in 15 OECD countries is predominantly delivered by the private sector

The private sector is as predominant as the public sector in delivery of primary care in OECD countries (1)

AMRO/PAHO | Outpatient care ownership ration

The private sector provides more than 40% of outpatient care in PAHO regions (3)

SEARO | Initial presentation of disease symptoms

The majority of the population in South Asia first seek care in the private sector (2)

EMRO | Outpatient and ambulatory services

The private sector provides the majority of outpatient and ambulatory services in the Eastern Mediterranean region (4)

Private Sector share

AFRO | Source of outpatient health care by wealth quintile

SEARO | Source of inpatient health care by wealth quintile

Source: Montagu D and Chakraborty. Analysis of DHS and MICS surveys from 27 AFRO countries representing 732.7M people; and eight SEARO countries representing 1,880M people. 2019.
Private Sector and COVID-19 response

COVID-19 tests performed in 2020

Estonia
- Public laboratories: 30%
- Private laboratories: 70%

Lebanon
- Public laboratories: 5%
- Private laboratories: 95%

Italy | ICU beds for COVID patients in Lombardy

- Private hospitals
- Public hospitals

Roles

- Involvement in risk communication and community engagement
- Supply chain, equipment and consumables
- Research
- Use of digital innovation for health service delivery (drones, etc.)
- Delivery of health services
- Support in policy making
How is WHO supporting countries to engage with the private sector in health?
WHO’s Strategy Report

- Deliver strategy
- Align structures
- Enable stakeholders
- Foster relations
- Build understanding
- Nurture trust

A **well-governed health system** in which public and private actors **collectively deliver** on public health goals, health security, UHC and health systems resilience.
Overview

Deliver Strategy

Up-to-date documents to influence the operation and performance of the private sector in line with health objectives

Enable Stakeholders

Regulatory and financing interventions to enable private providers to contribute to health policy goals

Build understanding

Organized data to enable and encourage evidence-based strategic and operational decision-making
Overview

Align structures

- Include the private sector in public health programmes and initiatives

Foster relations

- Establish platforms for policy dialogue and encourage the private sector to establish representative bodies

Nurture trust

- Ensure that the rights of patients receiving care in the private sector are enforced
Country, regional and global actors together help advance governments capacities to work with the private sector in health

- **Stronger global coordination & accountability**

- **Greater & Sustainable progress**
  with governments, the private sector, and local communities collaborating towards health goals

**Respond to countries’ needs and demands**, building their capacities to work with the private sector

**Support the efforts of global health actors** that works with governments and other partners to address health issues
Curating Evidence
We have created a knowledge hub that generates evidence, insights and learning to guide policy development and implementation inclusive of the private sector in health.

Supporting Implementation
We provide tailored support to countries that are interested in working with the private sector in health through the Country Support Desk. Our support can range from facilitating PPD, conducting tailored capacity building activities, and generating evidence responding to specific country needs.

Sharing Experiences
We work with partners and experts through the private sector engagement forum and our technical working groups.
Getting back on track for SDGs: putting private sector engagement into practice
Outcome: A progression pathway to align private sector efforts with national health priorities

A decision support and capacity building tool for alignment of behaviours, capacities and instruments

Increase **governments** stewardship to match **policy instruments** with required **capacities** for better governance of the private sector in health
## Country X

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governance behaviour</th>
<th>What progress looks like</th>
<th>Nascent</th>
<th>Developing</th>
<th>Progressing</th>
<th>Established</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Deliver strategy</td>
<td>Government has articulated clear strategic goals and objectives for the health system and a clear definition of roles for the private health sector in achieving these.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Align structures</td>
<td>Government has established the organizational structures required to achieve its identified strategic goals and objectives in relation to the private health sector (both for-profit and not-for-profit).</td>
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<td>Build understanding</td>
<td>Government has access to comprehensive, up-to-date and high-quality data on the operation and performance of the private health sector (both for-profit and not-for-profit).</td>
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<td>Enable stakeholders</td>
<td>Government acts to influence the operation and performance of the private health sector (both for-profit and not-for-profit) through the use of financing and regulatory policy mechanisms.</td>
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<td>Nurture trust</td>
<td>Government takes action to safeguard patients' human rights, health and financial welfare in relation to their interaction with the private sector (both for-profit and not-for-profit).</td>
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<td>Foster relations</td>
<td>The government has established inclusive policy processes, in which a broad range of stakeholders (including the private health sector - and both for-profits and non-profits) plays an active role.</td>
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QUESTION

What concrete support do Member States need from WHO Secretariat to govern the contribution of the private sector?
WHO key resources
The private sector and UHC

WHO supports countries in their path for achieving UHC and helps ensure all health system actors, private sector included, work toward the health goals set by government.
THANK YOU!

Let us ALIGN FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

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