

WHO EB : Inputs for 73rd WHA: Agenda - 11.1 Primary health care and 11.2 Follow-up to the high-level meetings of the United Nations General Assembly on health-related issues:



Statement by India

Thank you Mr. Chair,

India is committed to the high level political declaration on UHC that was announced last year. India has embarked upon the path to UHC recognizing that strengthening universal primary health care is a key means of achieving UHC. In addition, the poor and vulnerable groups (comprising 40% of India's population) are covered under publicly financed insurance programme- the PMJAY. Investments and strategies are directed towards strengthening delivery of Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC) in rural and urban areas, which forms cornerstone of Universal Health Coverage. OOPE has declined over the last few years on account of several schemes of the government designed to deliver cashless services.

Chair,

Under Ayushman Bharat, India's primary health care reform focuses on delivery of comprehensive primary health care through strengthening peripheral health facilities, close to community, supported by strong

community based systems. India's National Health Policy has envisaged a commitment of two thirds of the health budget to primary health care.

The Operational Framework for CPHC in India focus on Community Mobilization, Health Promotion, strengthening physical infrastructure, Expanding service delivery, enhancing capacity and capability of primary health care teams, including a non-physician health worker, a robust IT platform, enabling continuum of care between community, primary, secondary and tertiary care, telehealth, ensuring access to medicines and diagnostics, enabling knowledge/action partnerships, and undertaking reforms in financing primary health care.

India initiated population based screening at HWCs for all adults over thirty years of age for several conditions and risk factors, including hypertension, diabetes, common cancers, mental health, COPD, visual and hearing impairment, and those in need of palliative care. There is a focus on wellness promotion through Yoga in these Health and Wellness Centres.

There is a demonstrable increase in footfalls, especially, reaching the marginalized including women. As on today, more than 49,000 Centres are functional, with a cumulative 262 million footfalls, of which 54% are women; further, Tele-consultation services are provided at these Centres and more than 700,000 teleconsultations have taken place so far.

The comprehensive operational Framework proposes 14 levers (four strategic and ten operational levers) with interventions to strengthen primary health care. The organization of multiple PHC components into the “levers” provides a framework to facilitate operationalization.

The ongoing COVID pandemic, serving as a wake-up call, has brought home to us the need for a robust primary health care system that is capable of delivering comprehensive services and public health action.

WHO may establish a working group to adapt the framework in various country contexts and appropriately modify/update it periodically, based on multi context experiences.

As we all know, Health security also translates to economic security and Health investment by the Government is instrumental in reducing the financial burden faced by the households. Health is not only a goal in itself, but also vital for improved developmental outcomes. Better health improves productivity which has an impact on economic growth.

Thank you!