Perspectives from Africa; the role of SDGs/UHC to address current and future health challenges in the African Region

Kevin B. Ousman, WHO AFRO
Outline

• The Background and context of Healthcare in the African Region (AFRO)
• Health Challenges in AFRO
• WHO’s work in AFRO and where Health Systems fit in
• Overview of SDGs and UHC as a way forward
Background

• Increased investments in Health
• Inadequate translation of investments into good health outcomes
• Need for renewed efforts to strengthen health systems
• New Public Health Challenges
Systems Challenges in AFRO

- Inadequacies in the health workforce.
- Low levels of government spending coupled with high out of pocket payments.
- Weak procurement and supply systems.
- Poor information and monitoring systems.
- Weak community engagement.
- Africa’s unique health landscape along with a looming NCD catastrophe coupled with vibrant social-demographic and economic growth.
Some Challenges in the AFRO cont’d

- Demographic Transition - Youth & elderly increases
- Epidemiologic Transition - CD & NCD double burden
- Economic Transitions – newly middle income countries; middle class; urbanization, demand shifts
- Political transitions – None peaceful power transitions*
- Social and cultural transitions- modernity with traditions that affect health
- Climate & Environmental Risks- frequent outbreaks, disasters, conflict
- Varying Country context in Africa (LIC, LMIC, HICs and HIC with Low Health Indicators)
Why discuss Challenges?
An overview of WHO in AFRO

- **WHO** is the directing and coordinating authority on international health within the United Nations’ system

- **In the African region and elsewhere, it does by:**
  - **providing leadership** on matters critical to health and engaging in partnerships where joint action is needed;
  - shaping the **research agenda** and stimulating the generation, translation and dissemination of valuable knowledge;
  - setting **norms and standards** and promoting and monitoring their implementation;
  - articulating **ethical and evidence-based** policy options;
  - providing **technical support**, catalyzing change, and building sustainable institutional capacity; and
  - **monitoring** the health situation and assessing health trends
WHO in Africa cont’d

• Health systems
• Noncommunicable diseases
• Promoting health through the life-course
• Communicable diseases
• Preparedness, surveillance and response
SDGs and UHC as a way forward...

Wait! What are SDGs and how does health fit in?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_hLuEui6ww
Achieving the SDGs and UHC: Lessons from the MDGs

Source: gregorysholette.com
Achieving the SDGs and UHC: Lessons from the MDGs

• We need to make good policies and strategic choices to achieve UHC.

• SDGs will not be achieved without effective country leadership, stewardship and country ownership of the goals.

• Relevant stakeholders must be mobilized and effective partnerships built to guide domestic and external investments towards the goals.

• Partnerships must go beyond traditional partners to include intersectoral collaboration with non-traditional partners.
SDG goal 3.8 (UHC) as a way forward!
Some Proposed Africa Region Targets

By 2030,

at least 80% of Member States will have health systems that are performing optimally* for effective delivery of essential package of health and related services

By 2030,

all Member States will have at least 80% of their populations utilising the identified essential package of health and related services

By 2030,

all Member States will have in place and be implementing the investments plans needed to align their health systems to the SDGs
# Proposed Milestones for the African Region

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<th>By 2021</th>
<th>By 2025</th>
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<td>50% of all Member States will show evidence of improving population coverage of agreed standards and assessments.</td>
<td>80% of Member States will show evidence of improving population coverage of agreed standards and assessments.</td>
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<tr>
<td>50% of Member States will have evidence of improving health system performance as measured by the framework</td>
<td>80% of Member States will show evidence of improving health system performance</td>
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<td>80% of Member States will have started implementing the health system investments plans required for optimal performance</td>
<td>All Member States will have started implementing the health system investments plans required for optimal performance</td>
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AFRO’s Health systems Approach

System building blocks
- Service delivery
- Health workforce
- Information
- Medical products, vaccines and technologies
- Financing
- Leadership / governance

Overall goals / outcomes
- Improved health (level and equity)
- Responsiveness
- Social and financial risk protection
- Improved efficiency

Access
Coverage
Quality
Safety
UHC?

- Service delivery
- Health workforce
- Information/data
- Medical products
- Financing
- Leadership/Governance
AFRO’s Health Systems Approach

- **Results**
  - Global public health security and resilient societies
  - Equitable health outcomes and wellbeing
  - Inclusive economic growth and health sector jobs

- **Goal**
  - Universal Health Coverage
    - All people and communities receive the quality health services they need, without financial hardship

- **Actions**
  - Health Systems Strengthening
Resources


@kousman

kbousman@gmail.com