

Side-event: Primary Health Care towards Universal Health Coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals

September 23, 13:30-15:00, place: Conference room 1, UN building

Background

In October, 2018 in the capital of Kazakhstan the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan organized the Global Conference on Primary Health Care (PHC) with more than 2,000 participants from about 150 countries representing governments, ministries, NGOs, academia, healthcare professionals and youth organizations.

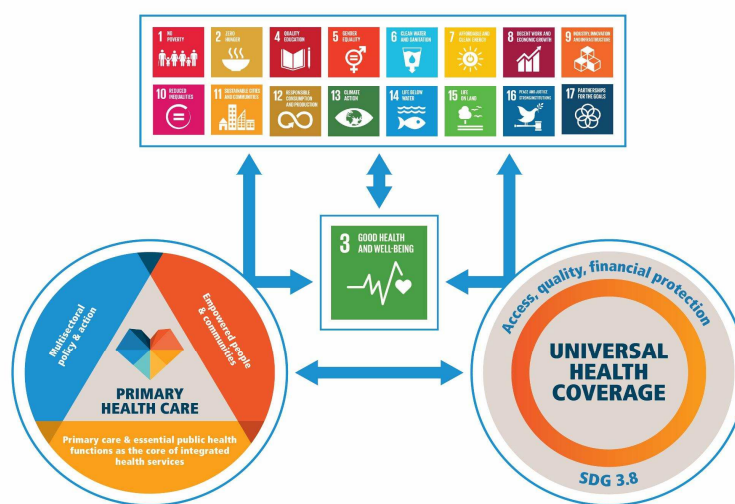
As a result of the conference, Member States and Governments have adopted the Declaration of Astana on Primary health care. The Declaration of Astana states that PHC is a cornerstone of a sustainable health system for universal health coverage (UHC) and health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

PHC is a whole-of-society approach to health that aims to ensure the highest possible level of health and wellbeing and their equitable distribution by focusing on people's needs and preferences as early as possible along the continuum from health promotion and disease prevention to treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care, and as close as feasible to people's everyday environment. Thus, PHC incorporates three inter-related and synergistic components: 1. primary care and essential public health functions as the core of integrated health services, 2. multisectoral policy and action, and 3. empowered people and communities. PHC is not just the provision of first-contact personal health care services, or a set of priority health interventions for low-income populations, as it had been falsely reinterpreted the last 40 years, following the adoption of the Alma-Ata Declaration back in 1978.

In the Declaration of Astana Member States agreed that a stronger PHC should be accessible, equitable, safe, of high quality, comprehensive, efficient, acceptable, available and affordable, and shall deliver continuous, integrated services that are people-centred and gender-sensitive. They will each pursue their paths to achieving UHC so that all people have equitable access to the quality and effective health care they need, ensuring that the use of these services does not expose them to financial hardship. One year ago, the international health community agreed to work hard to achieve health and wellbeing for all, leaving no one behind.

The global commitment to PHC in the Astana Declaration needs to be transformed into tangible actions to bring about demonstrable change and visible results. The Operational Framework that is being

developed by the WHO in consultation with the 194 Member States, in order to transform the PHC vision into a practical reality provides a set of levers for countries to strengthen their health systems and support them in scaling-up the respective national implementation efforts. The Operational Framework, when adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 2020, will help countries to implement the Declaration of Astana and build strong and sustainable healthcare systems based on strong PHC.



With the same spirit, the organizers of this side-event support the vital role of PHC in achieving UHC and the SDGs and desire to transfer existing knowledge and expertise to other countries, governments and relevant stakeholders on the margins of the High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage at the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New-York City in 2019.

Session Focal Points:

1. Serzhan Aidossov, Adviser to the Minister of Healthcare of the Republic of Kazakhstan, s.aidossov@mz.gov.kz, serzhan.aidossov@gmail.com
2. Noila Sorenson, Global Health Officer, Office of Europe & Eurasia, Office of Global Affairs, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Noila.Sorenson@hhs.gov

Objectives:

1. To bring political leaders from around the world to reaffirm the importance of PHC in achieving UHC and health-related SDGs and in preservation and promotion of the right for health;
2. To share best practices and successful cases of strengthening PHC;
3. To discuss the development of the Operational framework on PHC to strengthen health systems and support countries in scaling-up national implementation efforts on primary health care;
4. To enhance communication in order to facilitate the preparation of inclusion of the Operational framework on PHC in the Agenda of 2020 United Nations General Assembly.

Guiding questions: (Questions will be allocated to panellists during the last week prior to the Side event through a collaboration of the focal points)

1. How does PHC contribute to the achievement of UHC and health-related SDGs?
2. What are the key drivers of PHC towards UHC and SDGs?
3. What kind of success stories do we have to share in strengthening PHC?
4. How can we simplify the development of the Operational framework on PHC?
5. How can we contribute to the inclusion of the Operational framework on PHC in the Agenda of the 2020 United Nations General Assembly?

Key messages:

1. Without UHC there is no SDGs. Without PHC there is no UHC.
2. PHC is a whole-of-society approach to health that aims to ensure the highest possible level of health and wellbeing for all people.
3. The Operational framework on PHC is a country-level instrument to strengthen PHC globally.

SUGGESTED SIDE EVENT FORMAT (Note: Will be modified upon confirmation of speakers).

From	To	Role	Name	Title	Intervention	Notes
Part 1 Welcome & Opening						
13:30	13:34	Moderator	Yelzhan Birtanov	Minister of Healthcare, Kazakhstan	Welcome and introductory remarks. Objectives of the Side event	confirmed
13:35	13:39	Moderator	Alex M. Azar II	Secretary of Health and Human Services, United States	Welcome and introductory remarks. Introduce Chair, Keynote speakers	confirmed
13:40	13:44	Keynote speaker	Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus	Director-General, World Health Organization	Gives a speech	tbc
13:45	13:49	Keynote speaker	Henrietta H. Fore	Executive Director, UNICEF	Gives a speech	confirmed

13:50	13:54	Keynote speaker	David Malpass	President, World Bank	Gives a speech	tbc
Part 2 Commitments on PHC towards UHC and SDGs						
		Moderator	Yelzhan Birtanov Brett Giroir	Minister of Healthcare, Kazakhstan Assistant Secretary for Health, Department of Health and Human Services, United States	Introduce Panelists Provides guiding questions	confirmed
13:55	13:59	Panelist	Harsh Vardhan	Minister of Health and Family Welfare, India	Provide responses on guiding questions	tbc
14:00	14:04	Panelist	Kwaku Agyeman-Manu	Minister of Healthcare, Ghana	Provide responses on guiding questions	confirmed
14:05	14:09	Panelist	Vassilis Kontozamanis	Vice Minister of Health, Greece	Provide responses on guiding questions	confirmed
14:10	14:14	Panelist	Anutin Charnvirakul	Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Health, Thailand	Provide responses on guiding questions	confirmed
14:15	14:19	Panelist	Hanan Mohamed Al Kuwari	Minister of Public Health, Qatar	Provide responses on guiding questions	tbc
14:20	14:24	Panelist	Luiz Henrique Mandetta	Minister of Health, Brazil	Provide responses on guiding questions	confirmed
14:25	14:29	Panelist	Adam Vojtech	Minister of Health, Czech Republic	Provide responses on guiding questions	confirmed
14:30	14:34	Panelist	Miklós Kásler	Minister of Health, Hungary	Provide responses on guiding questions	tbc
Part 3 Interventions, Discussion with all stakeholders, Questions & Answers						
14:35	14:38	NGO representative	Viviana Martinez-Bianchi	Executive Committee Member & WHO Liaison, WONCA		confirmed

14:39	14:42	Youth representa tive		Youth Leaders for PHC		
14:43	15:00	Comments and discussion				