

# Universal Health Coverage

## Considerations for HIV

20 July 2019

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# What is universal health coverage?

**All** people are able to use **needed health services** (including prevention, promotion, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliation), of sufficient quality to be effective;

The use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship

# UHC is a direction and not a destination

No country fully achieves all the coverage objectives – UHC is dynamic responding to innovation and evolving health needs

Assume all countries want to:

- Reduce the gap between need and use of services (equity in service use)
- Improve quality
- Improve financial protection

UHC works best when there is transparency, public dialogue and engagement in decision-making – **UHC is political**

# So how do you move in the right direction?

**Improve health system  
strengthening literacy**

Better mix, distribution and  
capability of human resources  
for health

Investment to improve disease  
surveillance

Reducing fragmentation

Advocating for sustainable  
health



**UHC**

**Goals (what we want)**

- Equity in service use relative to need
- Quality
- Universal financial protection
- (and intermediate objectives like equity and efficiency in resource use)

# “Systems thinking” for a systemic approach

**Separate ends (e.g. effective coverage) and means (e.g. health program and wider health system)**

- “The problem is growing HIV incidence among injecting drug users” (defined at objective level)
- “The HIV program is under-funded” (a possible cause, but NOT the problem itself)

**Performance problems usually have multiple causes; therefore, solutions must be comprehensive**

- Beware of easy or so-called “innovative” solutions
- For every complex problem, there is an answer that is **simple, direct and wrong**

# Bringing a “UHC lens” to HIV

Take the perspective of the Minister (of Health and Finance), not the program manager

For quality and equity the unit of analysis is people with a focus on the marginalized and most in need

For financing the unit of analysis is the system

- Budget dialog makes sense at sectoral level, not disease-by-disease
  - Assess progress at level of population, not for “scheme members” or program beneficiaries
  - Similarly with efficiency: need a whole system, whole population unit of analysis (look for consolidation of underlying sub-systems)

# Summary messages

**All countries can  
“move towards  
UHC”**

**HIV is included in  
UHC**

**Separate ends  
(UHC) and means  
(HSS)**

**Apply systems  
thinking for  
comprehensive  
problem-solving  
approach**

# UHC a priority for WHO and UN member states



WHO target for 2023: 1 billion more people benefitting from UHC

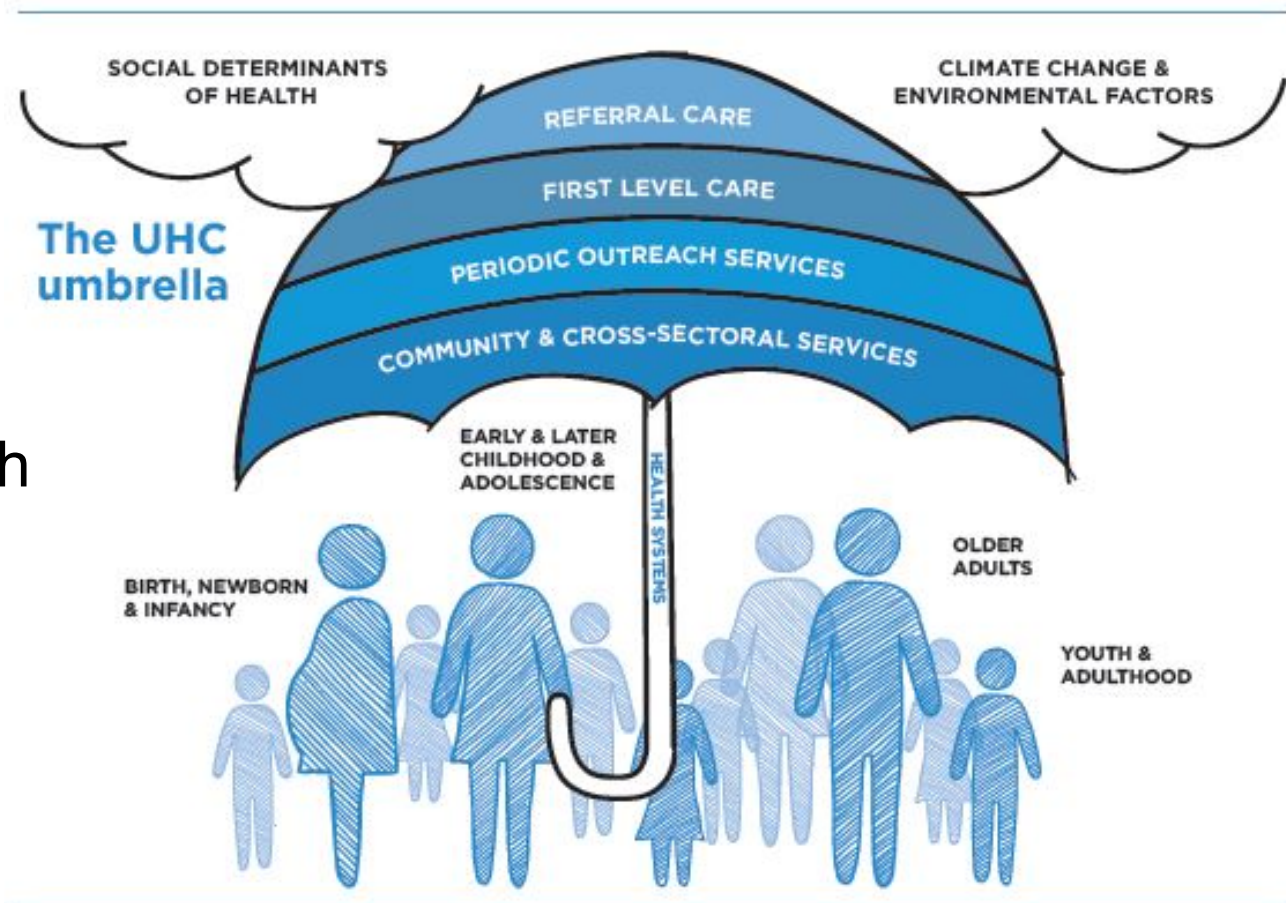
## SDG 3.8 Achieving UHC

including -

Financial risk protection

Access to quality people-centered health services

Access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all





# Unpacking universal health coverage

- Elements: people-centered quality services with equitable access; health workforce; access to medicines, vaccines and health products; governance and finance; health information systems; advocacy; country support
- WHO's approach: review and build upon existing UHC road maps, national health sector plans, and regional frameworks, and support countries to develop national packages of essential health services
- Requires strong, resilient health and community systems

# Unpacking universal health coverage for HIV



- Shifting, but not losing, focus from “HIV programmes” and the “HIV response” to HIV interventions, the health system and HIV impact
- **Ensuring all appropriate health interventions reach all the people that need them for HIV and other health impact**
- HIV specific goals remain critical – UHC impact will be measured through tracking success in a number of indicator areas including antiretroviral coverage
- Moving into a broader systems conversation presents opportunities and some opportunity costs....



# UHC is not “health”

Effective coverage is a means to improving health

Effective coverage alone does not determine health outcomes (e.g. social determinants)

Non-health system actions can be a critical part of the HIV response

So while HIV interventions are part of UHC, there are other actions to address HIV that are beyond UHC